US hostage begged for his life before beheading

STORY ON PAGE A2

Biazon: Who are these Americans?

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND ROCKY NAZARENO

WHO are these Americans and why are they here?

This question was raised by Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon yesterday as he called on Malacañang to identify the US military personnel who have

BIAZON/ A12

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001 ★★ 46 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 319 ₱15

Malacañang confirms meeting, denies deal

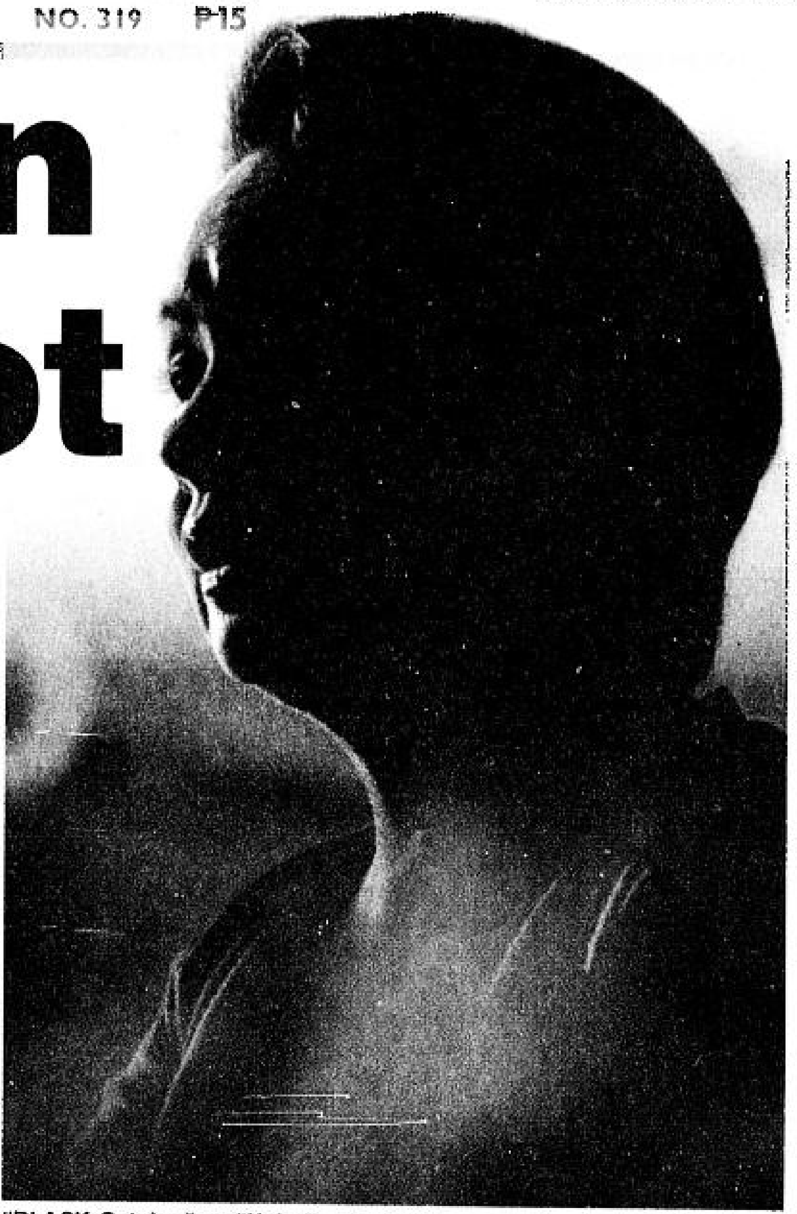
BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met two months ago with the man who allegedly bribed First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in exchange for a congressional franchise for two telecommunication firms.

Malacañang confirmed the meeting between

MALACAÑANG/ A15

Berroya: Lacson behind coup plot



"BLACK October" or "Holy Brother?" These are the two versions of the alleged destabilization plots emerging from the back and forth between the Macapagal administration and the opposition. Which is which for President Macapagal?
EDWIN BACASMAS

Opposition accused of planning 'Edsa 4'

BY TONETTE OREJAS, CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The opposition, led by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, is plotting to stage mass actions disguised as El Shaddai prayer rallies and designed to culminate in an "Edsa 4" between Oct. 30 and Nov. 4, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya said yesterday.

Berroya, former intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police and now director of the Central Luzon police command, made the disclosure in an attempt to belie claims by the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) that police and military officials had hatched a destabilization campaign code-named "Black October."

"*Binabaligtad nila ang sitwasyon* (They're reversing the situation)," Berroya, Lacson's archenemy, said of the PMP.

He said this was so because

BERROYA/ A15

INTER-FAITH prayer rally for world peace, organized by the Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation, is held Wednesday with President Macapagal as keynote speaker. She met with leaders of the Muslim community including Haja Putri Zorayda Abbas Tamano (beside the President).
AFP

US bombs kill civilians, pro-Taliban fighters

ISLAMABAD—US warplanes on Wednesday pummeled Taliban frontlines for the fourth straight day even as the Pentagon admitted stray US bombs had hit civilian targets in Afghanistan.

Many US bombs, however, were finding their targets. Under the cover of simultaneous air attacks on Taliban frontlines, opposition forces yesterday claimed their first territorial gains.

In Karachi, a Pakistani terrorist group also confirmed that a US air strike on Kabul hit a house on Tuesday, killing 22 of its fighters assembled there.

It was the deadliest known strike against a group linked to Osama bin Laden since the US air campaign began on Oct. 7.

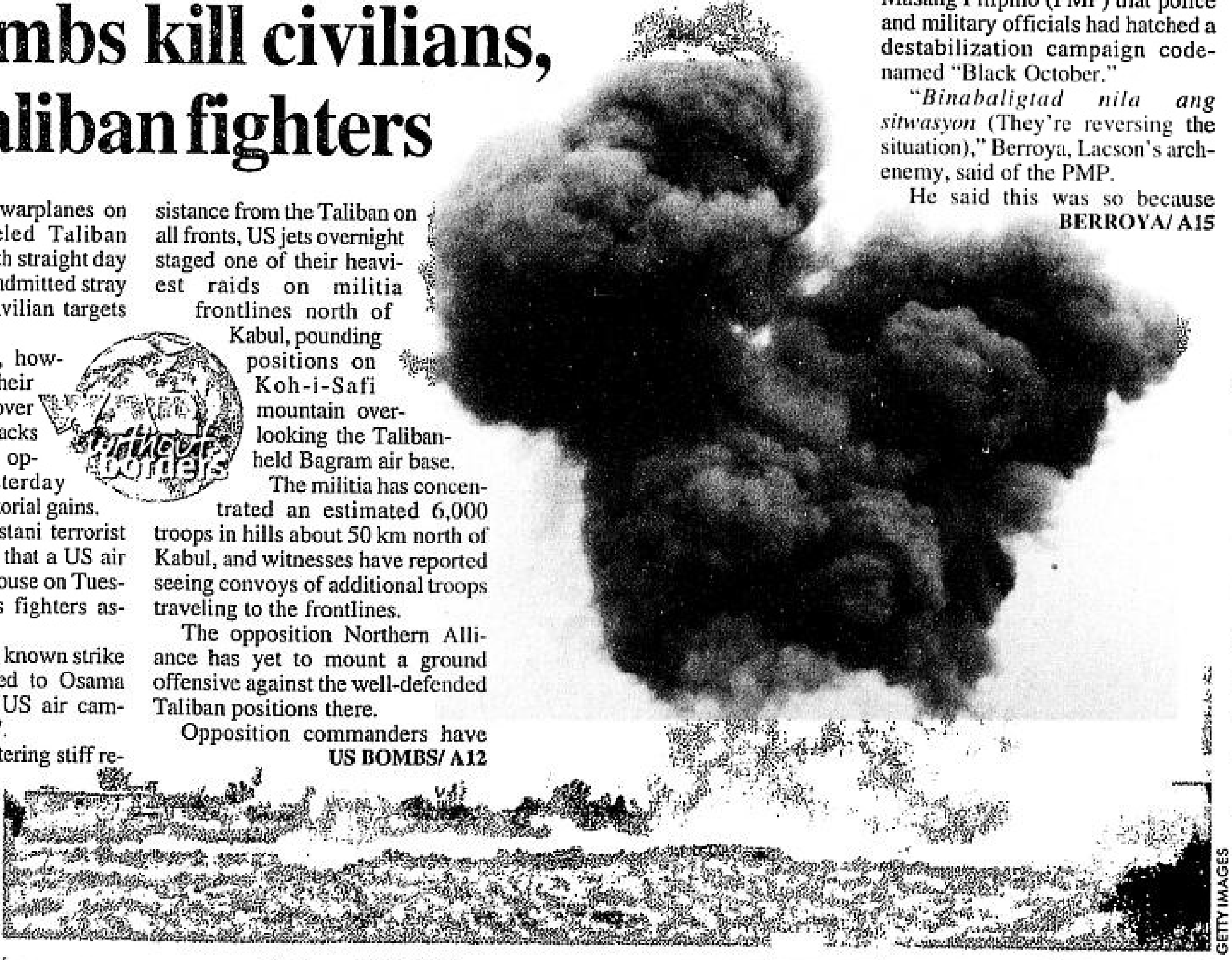
A day after encountering stiff resistance from the Taliban on all fronts, US jets overnight staged one of their heaviest raids on militia frontlines north of Kabul, pounding positions on Koh-i-Safi mountain overlooking the Taliban-held Bagram air base.

The militia has concentrated an estimated 6,000 troops in hills about 50 km north of Kabul, and witnesses have reported seeing convoys of additional troops traveling to the frontlines.

The opposition Northern Alliance has yet to mount a ground offensive against the well-defended Taliban positions there.

Opposition commanders have

US BOMBS/ A12



GETTY IMAGES

A RARE portrait of a smiling Afghan refugee who seems to have found respite, no matter how brief, from the grim and grime of war. After carting his belongings to a new abode outside Quetta, Pakistan, this displaced person, who lost his foot 10 years ago while fighting in Afghanistan, deserves a break before picking up pieces of his life and try to begin again in a foreign land. This is the lot of thousands upon thousands of refugees who have been streaming out of their war-shattered country since the US strikes began on Oct. 7.
GETTY IMAGES

YOU leader detained in Crame for coup talk

BY CARLITO PABLO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE LEADER of the Young Officers Union (YOU) has been held at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame for questioning in connection with rumors about a coup attempt against the Macapagal Administration.

Police Supt. Rafael Cardeño was taken into the custody of Camp Crame yesterday afternoon after submitting himself for questioning for allegedly spreading rumors of a coup.

But Police Director Thomson Lantion, director for community relations of Philippine National Police, clarified that Cardeño was merely invited by the office of the directorial staff under PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza.

YOU/ A15

Kidnap gang's lair raided; 1 cop dead

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

POLICE yesterday captured four suspected members of the Esting kidnap gang in a bloody raid on the group's hideout in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, that left one policeman dead.

But the alleged mastermind of the kidnap-for-ransom syndicate, a certain Ramon Go *(Profile on Page A12)*, eluded arrest.

The raid came after the kidnappers released Jennifer Jao, a Binondo-based Chinese-Filipino businesswoman, her son Aaron and their driver. Jao's family paid ransom to the kidnap gang. The three were abducted outside a Manila

KIDNAP/ A12

Inquirer bags 3 CMMA awards

THE INQUIRER was cited by the Catholic Mass Media Awards for Best News Coverage of People Power II.

At the awards rites last night held at the Ateneo de Manila, the INQUIRER also won Best Opinion Column (Randy David) and Best Special Feature (Mozart Pastrano).

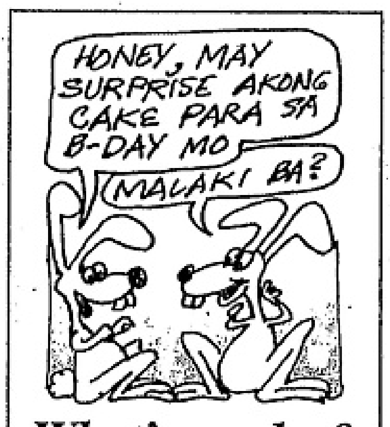
The INQUIRER had a total of 11 nominations.

Through song and dance and an audio-visual presentation, the CMMA paid tribute to Jaime Cardinal Sin who had initiated the awards to pay tribute to the "media's trade, their industry and their service to the people."

In his response, the cardinal said that media people, like the clergy, have a vocation and a mission. He said that communication is like communion.

It is important, the cardinal said,

INQUIRER/ A15



HONEY, MAY SURPRISE AKONG CAKE PARA SA B-DAY MO
MALAKI BA?

What's up, doc? Biggest carrot cake

BY DESIREE CALUZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—After Baguio's chefs successfully tossed the country's largest vegetable salad on Sept. 16, it is now the turn of Benguet's bakers to bake the largest carrot cake in the country.

WHAT'S/ A12

Second FRONT PAGE

Breakaway gang keeping priest, says kidnap leader

PAGADIAN CITY—Italian missionary Guiseppe Pierantoni was abducted by a breakaway group of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang.

This was confirmed by the Pentagon gang leader himself, Faizal Marohombzar, through an emissary in Marawi City.

Marohambzar said the group that kidnapped the 44-year-old priest was led by his former deputy, Commander Tangkay.

But Col. Estrellito Romero, deputy chief of Task Force Guiseppe, believes Marohambzar could be merely "bluffing" while his group is looking around for a place to hide the abducted missionary.

Romero, who is also chief of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, cited witnesses' accounts that a "mestizo-looking" man fitting Marohambzar's description had been seen on the night of Pierantoni's abduction.

An arrested suspect, Abdul Mohammad, said however that Marohambzar was not part of the group.

Eid Kabalu, the Moro Islamic Lineration Front spokesperson, said even the MILF had no idea who was behind the abduction.

The MILF was earlier accused of being behind the abduction. The group denied the allegation.

"We cannot yet ascertain the group responsible," Kabalu said.

He said the MILF leadership has already directed its ground units to help identify the suspects.

The military has said Pierantoni must be rescued before the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in November when the military's movements would be restricted.

Kabalu said the priest's release could still be worked out even during the observance of Ramadan.

"What's important is to pinpoint the real abductors," he said. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Slain US hostage begged for his life

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Guillermo Sobero, the American beheaded by Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, begged for his life moments before he was killed in June, according to a captured rebel.

BASHIR Balahim (right), witness to the beheading of Guillermo Sobero, with his father in detention.

REUTERS

The witness to the execution was captured this week along with three other members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, which took Sobero and others hostage in May, police said.

As his father shouted at him to be quiet, rebel Bashir Balahim, surrounded by police, told reporters he saw Sobero pleading for his life as a fellow rebel prepared to chop his head off.

Bashir smiled as he described the grisly murder.

Bashir told reporters that Sobero, blindfolded and with his hands tied behind his back, was crying and begging for mercy just before Abu Sayyaf member Abu Haija chopped off his head with a machete.

The 16-year-old guerrilla quoted Sobero as crying moments before he was killed, "No, no, please, I beg of you."

Also yesterday, defense attaches from embassies of 15 countries, including the United States, Britain, Australia, France, Indonesia, New Zealand and others, flew to Zamboanga for an informal annual gathering with the Philippine military.

About six hours before their arrival, two men in ski masks on a motorbike lobbed a hand grenade into a closed grocery store near the Zamboanga airport.

Police said nobody was injured and there was no clear connection to the attaches' visit.

About 25 US military advisers arrived in the Philippines late last week to determine what kind of training and equipment the United States can provide to help Filipino troops fight the Abu Sayyaf.

Other captured Abu Sayyaf rebels this month led government troops to a skeleton they said was Sobero's in the jungles of Basilan island.

Two weeks ago, the US government announced that its forensics experts had established the remains were indeed Sobero's.

The Abu Sayyaf captured the Peru-born Sobero, US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and dozens of Filipinos in a kidnapping spree that began in May in the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

The group—linked to Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States—boasted in June that they had killed Sobero.

The teenage rebel Bashir Balahim and his father Abdul Balahim, 48, were captured in Basilan this week, regional police chief Senior Supt. Damming Ungga said.

An Abu Sayyaf courier and another member of the group were caught in this southern city, he said.

The arrests came amid a massive military operation against the armed group.

Ungga said those arrested did not fight back and had given vital information on the kidnapping group.

The Abu Sayyaf has also killed more than a dozen Filipino hostages in Basilan and still holds the Burnham couple and nine Filipinos.

Meanwhile, Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted two government militiamen in Basilan on Tuesday, regional military spokesperson Lt. Col. Darwin Guerra said.

One was tortured and shot dead, while the other escaped, he added.

The military has been closing in on the Abu Sayyaf in recent weeks and Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said he had received reports of mass desertions from their ranks with only 100 members still remaining in the main group in Basilan. *AFP and AP*

Freed hostage back in China

BEIJING—A Chinese man freed by Muslim guerrillas after being held hostage for more than two months in the Philippines, has returned home to China, state media said Tuesday.

Zhang Zhongyi, who was released Saturday by his captors, the "Pentagon" group of Muslim rebels, arrived in Xiamen, a port city in east China's Fujian province after flying from Manila, the Xinhua news agency said.

Zhang, two other Chinese and a Filipino guide were abducted in Mindanao island in August as they delivered a ransom to win the release of his brother Zhang Zhongqiang, an engineer at a major dam project in the area who was kidnapped by the same gang in June.

Zhang Zhongqiang and a second Chinese were later killed when the military mounted a rescue attempt, while a third Chinese escaped. The gunmen released the Filipino guide last month.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi Tuesday said Zhang Zhongyi was released without the payment of a ransom.

"We are satisfied at the safe release of the hostage and we thank the efforts of the Filipino government and its leaders," Sun said.

Sun said the release of Zhang would "definitely play an important role to the further development of friendly relations and cooperation" between the two countries.

Zhang's captors handed him over to an envoy of the Philippines' main Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Friday, which then handed him to the Libyan ambassador to the Philippines, Salem Adam.

Adam said no ransom was paid but "the Libyan Embassy will provide humanitarian assistance if they (the kidnappers) surrender to the government and form themselves into a cooperative." *AFP*

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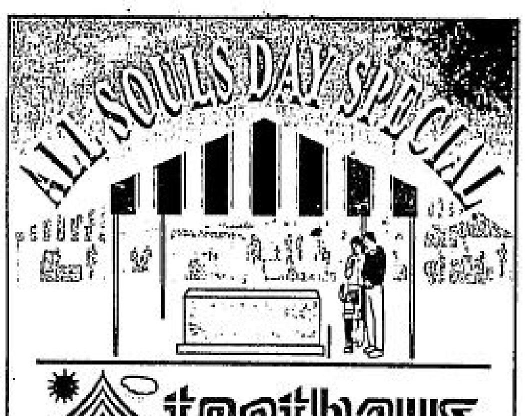

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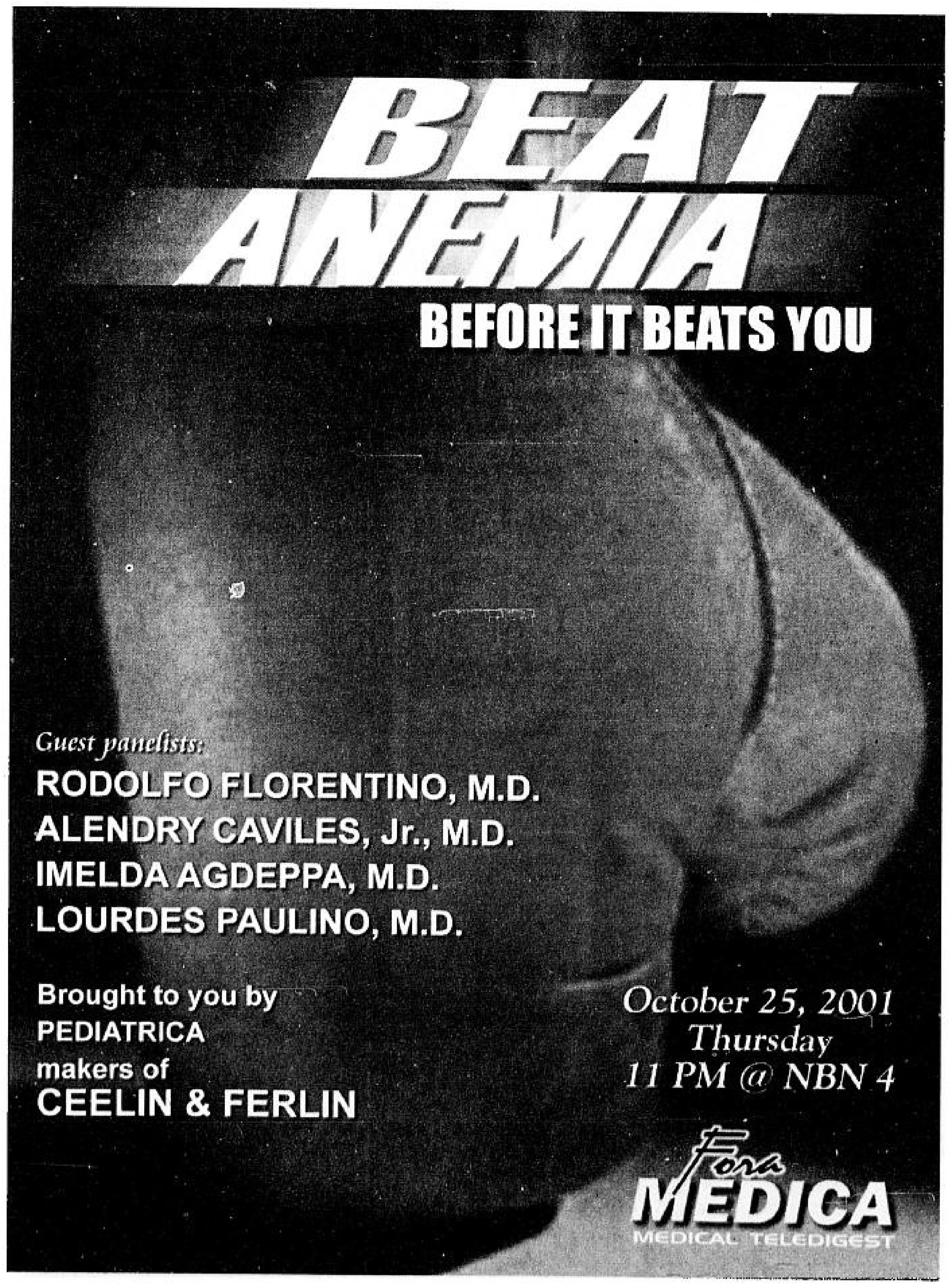
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Now, Jinggoy wants to visit kin's graves

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

FIRST, he asked to be released from jail, claiming to be suffering from a heart ailment. Then he found an excuse in the "unfinished" paper work on his mayor's desk. Later still, he asked to be allowed to witness the oath-taking of his senator-elect mother.

This time around, Jinggoy Estrada, the ex-mayor of San Juan, is the dutiful grandson asking to be released from detention so he can join the millions of Filipinos flocking to the country's cemeteries next week.

Jinggoy, who with his father ousted President Joseph Estrada is being detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on plunder charges, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to be allowed to visit his grandparents' graves on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

In a motion filed yesterday by his lawyers, Jinggoy appealed to the court's "understanding and sympathy" in asking for a three-day furlough from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

The young Estrada, the motion said, wanted to visit his maternal grandmother's grave in Iba, Zambales, and his paternal grandfather's grave in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The motion said that the three-day respite "will not only relieve the accused of continuous stress at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and provide him a well-needed break from the same, but likewise allow him to perform the duties of a caring grandson to his deceased grandparents who had loved him so well, during their lifetime."

The court's 3rd Division had earlier granted two similar motions from Jinggoy: when he said he needed to "clear his desk" at his San Juan municipal office as the outgoing town mayor, and when he sought treatment for heart disease at the Makati Medical Center.

But when he sought permission to witness the oath-taking of his mother, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, the court denied the request.

Also at the Sandiganbayan, prosecutors yesterday sought the immediate resumption of the Estrada plunder trial with the cross-examination of the prosecution's second witness, Carlos Arellano, the former chair of the Social Security System.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto cited Arellano's medical condition as the main reason for his testimony to be heard as soon as possible.

In a motion for conditional examination, Desierto said Arellano was a diabetic who needed to undergo specialized tertiary treatment in the United States.

The witness was willing "to be conditionally examined by this court" before going abroad for his treatment, Desierto said.

He added that the delay in the proceedings "brought about by the non-stop and unending motions being filed by the lead counsel (of the Estradas) heightened Mr. Arellano's anxiety, tension and distress, resulting in the fast deterioration of his condition."

The court was asked to take Arellano's testimony on Nov. 8.

Arellano will be testifying on how the deposed Estrada allegedly collected almost P190 million in commissions from the sale of Belle Corp. shares of stock to the SSS and the Government Service Insurance System.

Committee OK s P125 wage hike

EMPLOYERS are in for a surprise.

Three days before Congress goes for a two-week recess, the House committee on labor and employment yesterday approved House Bill No. 2605 which seeks for Congress to legislate a P125-wage increase.

This means the bill, which seeks to grant the legislated wage hike across the board and at one time, will soon reach plenary discussions in the House.

The bill, which was authored by Bayan Muna representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza, was approved in yesterday's executive session of committee members led by its chair Rep. Roseller Barinaga.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of $0.12 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on December 31, 2001 to shareholders of record as at the close of business on November 19, 2001.

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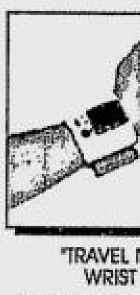

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OPENING CEREMONIES OCTOBER 24 • 6PM • KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HON. TOMAS R. OSMEÑA

DAY 1 - THURSDAY - OCTOBER 25, 2001

9:00 - 10:00 AM - Plenary Lecture 1
"CLINICAL UPDATES IN THE TREATMENT OF HEART FAILURE"
Dr. Rody G. Sy

10:00 - 12:00 NN - Symposium 1
"EXECUTIVE DECISIONS: WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE CARDIOLOGIST ARRIVES"
Speakers:
Dr. Francisco L. Chio, Jr. (Acute AF & Rate Control)
Dr. Raul D. Lastimosa (Unstable CAD in the ER)
Dr. John Reynaldo G. Viola (Thrombolysis VS Angioplasty)
Dr. Edgar H. Tan (Myocardial Protective Strategies)

12:00NN - 2:00 PM - LUNCHEON SYMPOSIA
Dr. Venancio I. Gloria (GERD)
Dr. Aracell A. Panelo (New Paradigm in the Treatment of Type II DM)
Dr. Jorge A. Sison (Insight into The Modern Treatment of Cardiovascular Risk Factors)
Dr. Artemio A. Roxas Jr. (Progress in Stroke Prevention)
Dr. Felix M. Zaño (Hepatic Encephalopathy and its Management)
Dr. Camilo C. Roa Jr. (Are Macrolides Still First Line Treatment in LRTI)

2:00 - 3:00 PM - Plenary Lecture 2
ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE: THE CHALLENGE OF THE "SUPERBUGS"
Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi-Ramos

3:00 - 5:00 PM - Symposium 2
"CAN WE CHANGE THE FACE OF ASTHMA?"
Dr. Tomas M. Realiza (A Day in the Life of an Asthmatic - ER Management
Dr. Camilo C. Roa, Jr. (Airway Remodeling)
Dr. Dina V. Diaz (Step Care Approach to Asthma
Dr. John S. Uy (Corticophobia)

5:00 - 6:00 PM - BUSINESS MEETING
6:00 - 10:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (CARIBBEAN NIGHT) & INDUCTION CEREMONIES

DAY 2 - FRIDAY - OCTOBER 26, 2001

9:00 - 10:00 AM - Plenary Lecture 3
"DIABETES MELLITUS - PRACTICAL THERAPEUTICS"
Dr. Gerry H. Tan

10:00 - 12:00 NN - Symposium 3
"OSTEOPOROSIS: THE BRITTLE END"
Dr. Evelyn O. Salido (Pathophysiology)
Dr. Merle Ypil Barba (Applications of Bone Densitometry for Osteoporosis
Dr. Milagros Chan (The Role of Estrogen in Osteoporosis)
Dr. Merle Ypil Barba (The Role of Calcium, Vit.D, Calcitonin, Biphosphates . In the Prevention & Treatment of Osteoporosis)
Dr. Evelyn O. Salido (The Science & Therapy of Glucocorticoid-Induced Bone Loss)

12:00NN - 2:00 PM - LUNCHEON SYMPOSIA
Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua (The Diabetes Algorithm - One Step Beyond)
Dr. William T. Chua (Adult Treatment Panel (ATP III)
Dr. Laura T. Acampado (Insulin Resistance; The Core Defect in Type II Diabetes Mellitus)
Dr. Clemente M. Amante (Advances in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Paradigm Shift)
Dr. Joselito R. Chavez (Quinolones Are Not All the Same: Different Safety Profiles for Specific Compounds)

2:00 - 3:30 PM - Symposium 4
"SAFETY ISSUES OF MOBILE PHONES"
Dr. Ramon del Fierro (The Biological Effects of Cellular Phones)
Dr. Bleslida V. Pono (Cellular Phones & Radiofrequency Radiation)
Dr. Ma. Fidelis E. Quiza (Epidemiology of Head & Neck Cancers in the Cellular Phone Era)

3:30 - 6:30 PM - Symposium 5
"INFORMATICS: MEDICAL THERAPEUTICS, 2000 AND BEYOND"
Dr. William T. Chua (New Serum Markers for Mild Cardionecrosis: Troponins atbp.)
Dr. Joseph M. Antigua (Nutraceuticals & Other Emergent Therapies in Rheumatic Diseases)
Dr. Rosan A. Trani (Nitrate Tolerance: Preventive Strategies)
Dr. Oscar D. Naldas (The Challenges of Renal Protection with the Advent of Advanced Health Care Technology)
Dr. Arturo V. Pascual (Hypertension: Changing Concepts (Q & A)

6:30 PM - OFFICIAL CLOSING
Raffles (physical presence required)

SPECIAL FEATURE: IS CEBU READY FOR BIOCHEMICAL TERRORISM? October 25, 2001 5PM

No kidnapping, Lina says of missing exec

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA
AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said the reported disappearance of Romeo Panganiban, the former public works director for Southern Tagalog, cannot as yet be considered a case of kidnapping.

"There is nothing definite yet. This is still being verified by the police," Lina said.

Lina said Panganiban who had listed him as one of his references in his personal data sheet at the Department of Public Works and Highways, has not called him.

Lina was governor of Laguna province when Panganiban was DPWH director for Region 4 from March 2000 to May this year.

The INQUIRER also contacted a close friend of Panganiban to verify the reported kidnapping but the friend said the "missing" DPWH official has not called him either.

"We don't know where he is," said Panganiban's friend who added that Panganiban could be up to something but did not elaborate.

Police said Panganiban was taken by armed men while on his way home to Alabang, Muntinlupa, from Sta. Cruz, Laguna, on Monday evening.

Panganiban has not surfaced since but is said to have called his brother, Dennis, the mayor of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, to say that he was fine and that there was no need to worry.

Panganiban has been on floating status after Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong could find no position for him.

He was detailed with the office of Assistant Secretary Jesus Camacho.

Panganiban was replaced as Region 4 director on orders of Malacañang, but it took some time to carry out the order because highly placed friends tried to "negotiate" for his retention.

Datumanong earlier confirmed that Panganiban was being considered for the directorship of the Bicol regional office but sources said Sen. Joker Arroyo, a Bicolano, had lobbied for the retention of the current director.

Datumanong yesterday said he would order an investigation into allegations that Panganiban had been involved in some unscrupulous deals during his stint with the department.

Datumanong vowed to eliminate corruption in the department, long perceived as one of the most graft-ridden agencies of government.

In a press conference yesterday, the DPWH chief said he would not hesitate to fire officials and employees involved in irregular transactions with contractors.

"Corruption is perceived in the department. I haven't seen it yet, but maybe it's because I haven't been here long enough," he said.

Datumanong has asked Panganiban to report for work immediately so he can be questioned about his vast wealth.

There were reports that Panganiban, a close friend of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was abducted because of his failure to deliver on the allegedly illegal deals he made with contractors.

The 54-year-old Panganiban is said to own several mansions in Metro Manila and some provinces, as well as 19 vehicles, most of them luxury cars, aside from speedboats and jet skis.

"I am not very well acquainted with his assets, or the assets of other DPWH officials," Datumanong said. "That's why we need to hear from (Panganiban) personally so we will know the truth."

YUCHENGCO

ALBA

Taipan confirmed as envoy to UN

BUSINESS magnate Alfonso Yuchengco, who has served as ambassador to Japan, was confirmed yesterday as the Philippines' Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The Commission on Appointments also confirmed the appointment of five other diplomats before it adjourned for a two-week congressional recess, but without confirming three Cabinet secretaries.

Also confirmed by the CA were political appointee Joseph Delano Bernardo as ambassador to Spain with concurrent accreditation to Andorra and Morocco; and career diplomats Jorge Arizabal as ambassador to Pakistan with concurrent jurisdiction over Afghanistan; Francisco Santos (New Zealand with concurrent accreditation to Tonga, Samoa and Fiji); Willy Gaa (Australia with concurrent accreditation to Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) and Shulan Primavera (Eqypt and Sudan).

Last week, the CA confirmed the appointment of Francisco A. Alba, the president and founder of the Pludentialife Group, as the new ambassador to the Vatican.

The CA earlier confirmed the appointment of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman.

It bypassed Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Senate foreign relations committee chair Sen. Blas Ople, in his nomination speech, described Yuchengco as "already 78 but still agile and strong and considered one of the silent movers of industry and finance."

Before Yuchengco's appointment, he was President Macapagal-Arroyo's special envoy to Greater China, Japan and Korea.

He also served as ambassador to Japan from 1995 to 1998.

Ople noted that, among the new appointees, Arizabal would be bringing in 36 years of extensive diplomatic experience. Arizabal's previous postings include Hanoi, Baghdad, Canberra, London, Paris and Kuala Lumpur.

"(Arizabal) faces tremendous challenges in ensuring the safety of some 580 overseas Filipinos in Pakistan," Ople said.

He said Arizabal would also be monitoring the US-led war against the Taliban government in Afghanistan to "provide vital inputs on Philippine foreign policy." *Rocky Nazareno*

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NEWSBRIEFS

Good luck, Mr. Chairman

COMMISSION on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo will be facing the Commission on Appointments with a heartfelt wish of luck from—surprisingly—his arch-critic in the collegial body.

Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday said she was wishing Benipayo "all the luck" because the Comelec chair could face a tough grilling from the members of the powerful commission.

Tancangco, who had been at odds with Benipayo, was the last person expected to support the confirmation of Benipayo.

"The perception of so many people is that it's a personal bickering but it's more of differences of understanding of how a collegial body works," said Tancangco, who only recently lambasted Benipayo again for making decisions without consulting the other commissioners.

Agri chief hurting

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor is still hurting from the sudden loss of his department's key agencies, the National Food Authority and the Philippine Coconut Authority, which have been transferred to the Office of the President.

"Who wouldn't be? The President has virtually clipped his powers by transferring the two agencies to her office. It's as if she doesn't trust him anymore. We pity him," said an insider at the Department of Agriculture.

"That's why the perception inside and outside is that it's the President herself who's running the department.".

So far, Montemayor has maintained silence on the transfer and has skirted questions by the media on the issue. On the day the transfer was announced, he issued a brief statement, saying he respected the President's move.

President Macapagal issued an executive order on Oct. 15 transferring the PCA and NFA to the Office of the President, citing the need for "policy and program coordination." *TJ Burgonio*

UN for safer world

FRESH from winning the Nobel Peace Prize, the United Nations on Wednesday commemorated its 56th founding anniversary, calling on governments to work harder in alleviating suffering and help create "a better and safer world for all."

"Today, on UN Day 2001, I urge the United Nations family to stay true to our mission and to work harder than ever to alleviate suffering in every part of the world," said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in a statement.

Annan shared the Nobel award with the UN, the first time that the world body has been recognized as an institution, and not just for its specific campaigns, primarily for its work in promoting peace, defending human rights and fighting poverty. As secretary general, Annan was recognized for his unstinting efforts in focusing on poverty and such issues as AIDS, and on carrying our rigorous reforms in the UN.

"As the world confronts a new challenge, old ones remain. The United Nations is more central than ever to creating a better and safer world for all," he said.

Children's Rosary Day

THE CHILDREN'S Rosary Movement will hold a Children's Rosary Day for Peace on Sunday. On this day, children from all over the country and Filipinos abroad will pray the rosary for peace.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal L. Sin will lead the children in praying the rosary from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and officiate Mass afterwards at the Archbishop's Palace, Villa San Miguel. They will join other dioceses in simultaneously praying the rosary with their bishops, priests, parents, teachers and parishes in designated churches and shrines.

Children age 9-13 are expected to attend the Children's Rosary Rally for Peace. Cardinal Sin launched the Children's Rosary Crusade in October 1998, "to bring Jesus to the children and the children to Jesus." Cardinal Sin said, "we will raise a generation of rosary-praying children through prayer and action. We will bring back the rosary into every Filipino's home."

The Children's Rosary Day for Peace at Villa San Miguel will be covered live by ABS-CBN News Channel 21 from 4:30 to 5 p.m. to be followed by a video presentation by the Children's Rosary Crusade at 5 to 6 p.m.

GORDON welcomes Japanese visitors.

ROGER MARGALLO

RP told to keep off Indon-Malaysia row

THE HAGUE—The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled Tuesday that the Philippines cannot intervene in a territorial dispute between Indonesia and Malaysia, saying Manila had failed to show it had a clear interest in the case.

The Philippines wanted to intervene because any decision on sovereignty over the islands of Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipidan, situated off the coast of Sabah on the island of Borneo, could have a bearing on its dormant territorial claim on parts of North Borneo.

Presiding judge Gilbert Guillaume said the court decided that the Philippines did not demonstrate "any interest of a legal nature that warrants intervention" even as a non-party to the case.

In 1997 Indonesia and Malaysia concluded a special agreement to let the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, settle the issue of sovereignty over the disputed Celebes Sea islands.

Malaysia is expected to cite its ownership of Sabah as the basis for its claim to the islands.

The Philippines also lays claims to Sabah on the grounds that it was ruled by the Sulu sultanate in the 15th century.

Manila feared that its claims on North Borneo might be affected by the courts' reasoning or its interpretation of treaties at issue in the case between Malaysia and Indonesia. Both of those countries had objected to the Philippine intervention.

The ICJ ruled that the Philippines based their claim on a grant by the Sultan of Sulu, who had a title to at least a part of Sabah, not invoked by Malaysia and Indonesia.

"The court, however, observes that neither Indonesia nor Malaysia relies on the 1878 grant as a source of title to Ligitan and Sipidan islands," judge Guillaume said.

The Sabah question has been an irritant in ties between Manila and Kuala Lumpur ever since former President Diosdado Macapagal revived a claim to the state when it became independent and joined Malaysia in 1963.

The Philippines had never formally renounced its claim to Sabah, although officials in Manila have said they would not allow the dispute to disrupt bilateral relations.

Attempts by previous Philippine administrations to drop the Sabah claim have been shot down by the Senate and relations between Malaysia and the Philippines have been broken off twice because of the row. *AFP*

Japanese visitors show RP is safe

TRAVEL advisory or no travel advisory, some 200 Japanese executives, including the chairman of Japan's largest private medical group and the great grandson of a Japanese emperor, consider travel to the Philippines safe.

Torao Tokuda, chairman and chief executive officer of the Tokushukai Medical Corp. (TMC), flew in yesterday with the intent of putting up a hospital in the Philippines.

Others like Dr. Ekan Ikeguchi, a Buddhist bishop, and his wife traveled here with 206 Japanese nationals to go to Mabalacat, Pampanga, for a prayer service.

The party called on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang and was joined by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, whose office coordinated the visit.

Secretary Gordon said these visits are clear indications of the prevailing peace and order situation in the country. Gordon, together with the Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines (FTIP) and Japanese travel executives under the Japan Philippine Tourism Council (JPTC), are continuing to appeal to the Japanese government to lift Level 2 status of the Japanese travel advisory on the Philippines.

Level 2, which was declared early this month, warns the Japanese against travel to all parts of the Philippines.

Japanese travel agents sending tour groups to the Philippines have reported losses of some $2 million or 200 million yen daily since Level 2 was raised.

Alejandra Clemente, FTIP president, said more Japanese travel executives, mainly from JPTC West, flew in yesterday to rally together with their local counterparts in tourism for the lifting or downgrading of the advisory.

Also in the visiting party were former Prince Takeda, great grandson of the Meiji emperor whose common name is Tuneyas Takeda; Takao Suzuki, chief operating officer of the TMC; Katsuyuki Noso, TMC chief finance officer; and Kiyoshi Wakamiya, representative of TMC in Manila and secretary general of the World Pilgrimage for Peace.

Under Dr. Tokuda's leadership, the Tokushukai Medical Corp. has grown to be the third largest medical group in the world. In Japan, it is the largest private medical group with 176 hospitals and clinics all over the country. It has a medical staff of 1,700 doctors and surgeons, 8,200 nurses and 4,500 other medical and administrative staff. Last year's turnover was $2 billion (US).

Tokushukai is currently building a 1,020 bed facility in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Buddhist bishop, for his part, said if he had more time, he could have brought some 500 Japanese with him in this trip.

Recto negative

SEN. Ralph Recto yesterday tested negative for shabu and marijuana after he voluntarily submitted himself to two drug tests.

Recto's decision to have himself tested for drugs came after .16 gram of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and a stick of marijuana were discovered on an empty seat in the session hall that was reserved for his staff late Monday night.

Recto was tested at the Makati Medical Center under the supervision of Dr. Miguel Fores and at the Lopez Medical Center, which is accredited by the Dangerous Drugs Board as an official drug-testing center.

Expected to follow suit are the 25 officers and members of Recto's staff.

"We are showing the value of leadership by example. I think not one of my staff would not also voluntarily submit himself or herself to a drug test," Recto said in a press conference.

Recto presented to media a copy of the drug test result from MMC and LMC.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Double jeopardy—Jeopardy attaches only (1) upon a valid indictment, (2) before a competent court, (3) after arraignment, (4) when a valid plea has been entered, and (5) when the defendant was convicted or acquitted, or the case was dismissed or otherwise terminated without the express consent of the accused. In the cases at bar, the order of dismissal based on a violation of the right to speedy trial was made upon motion by counsel for petitioner before the trial court. It was made at the instance of the accused before the trial court, and with his express consent. Generally, the dismissal of a criminal case resulting in acquittal made with the express consent of the accused or upon his own motion will not place the accused in double jeopardy. However, this rule admits of two exceptions, namely: insufficiency of evidence and denial of the right to speedy trial. Double jeopardy may attach when the proceedings have been prolonged unreasonably, in violation of the accused's right to speedy trial. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Almario v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 127772, March 27, 2001]

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1st Minor Draw - October 6, 2001
Minor Prizes
(to be received by winners in the following areas: GMA, Luzon, and Visayas/Mindanao):
First Prize: 21" Aphrody Pure Flat TV (model #21V-FL200S)
- 1 per area
Second Prize: 6.4 cu. ft. single-door fridge (model #SJ-19T)
- 1 per area
Third Prize: 32 L Microwave oven (model #R-340C)
- 1 per area
Consolation Prize: 4.2 kg. Single-Tub washer (model #ES-421W)
- 5 per area

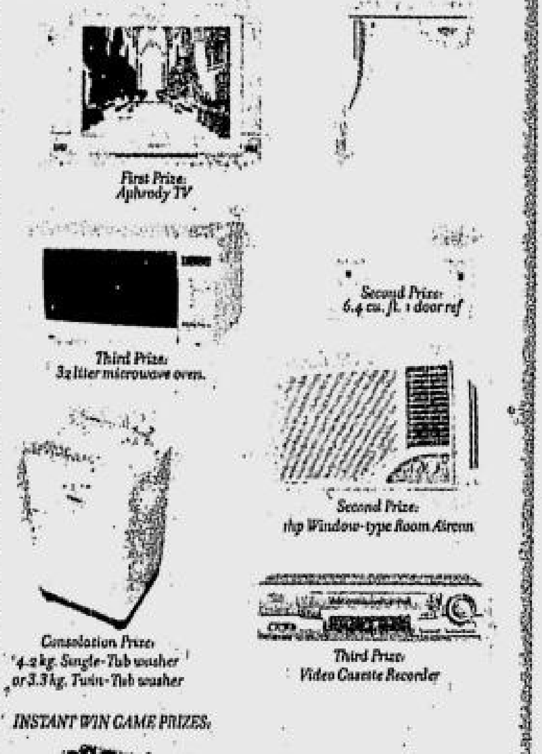
2nd Minor Draw - December 1, 2001
Minor Prizes:
(to be received by winners in the following areas: GMA, Luzon, and Visayas/Mindanao):
First Prize: 29" Aphrody TV (model #29V-J200S)
- 1 per area
Second Prize: 1hp Window-type Room Aircon (model #AF-A901S)
- 1 per area
Third Prize: VCD Mini-System (model #CD-BK260V)
- 1 per area
Consolation Prize: 3.3 kg Twin-tub washing machine (model #ES-3300T)
- 5 per area

Grand Raffle Draw - January 12, 2002
Prizes to be won in each area (GMA, Luzon, and Visayas/Mindanao)
Grand Prize: Toyota REVO (SRC)
-1 per area
Second Prize: Audio/Video Showcase
-1 per area
Third Prize: Home Appliance Showcase
-1 per area
Consolation Prize: Simba Portable CD Component (model #CX-CD1200W)
-50 per area

Promo period is from Aug. 22, 2001 - Dec.31, 2001.

See leaflets for complete promo details.

MINOR DRAW PRIZES:



First Prize: Aphrody TV
Second Prize: 6.4 cu. ft. 1 door ref
Third Prize: 32 liter microwave oven.
Second Prize: 1hp Window-type Room Aircon
Consolation Prize: 4.2 kg. Single-Tub washer or 3.3 kg. Twin-Tub washer
Third Prize: Video Casette Recorder

INSTANT WIN GAME PRIZES:

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1111 Series of 2001.

OPINION

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Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 16 No. 319
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Off-season coup rumors

EDITORIAL

THE EARLY arrival of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the Apec summit in Shanghai has fuelled rumors of coup plots that had been circulating before her departure. Her arrival 12 hours ahead of schedule was interpreted as a confirmation of the rumors. She talked upon arrival in the small hours of the morning with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. No one knows exactly what they talked about, but this did not stop speculation about conspiratorial huddles.

We prefer to go by concrete facts. When a president arrives from overseas travel—no matter what the time of the arrival is—Cabinet members meet the president upon arrival. That's obligatory and part of protocol. Coup plot rumors have little to do with that. If the president had been seen talking with the health secretary, we are certain that the speculation would be about the anthrax threat.

Coup rumors have a habit of cropping up at the most unlikely times. Tracing their origin is like uncovering the source of anthrax infection. Oddly, the rumors seem to have originated from the political opposition, some of whose spin artists have claimed that some officers in the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces were involved in a plot to create disturbances—including assassinations—which would be blamed on the opposition to shift attention from the investigation into alleged corruption deals of Mike Arroyo, the President's husband.

On the other hand, PNP and military intelligence agencies continue to receive reports that people identified with the opposition and the Estrada administration have been trying to recruit officers into the alleged plot to seize power. Intelligence reports say that people associated with previous coup plots during the last few months of the Estrada administration and the May 1 rebellion have been meeting in Puerto Azul.

Whether or not these reports are credible, the gap, however, between rumor and fact is huge. On the basis of reality, only one group in this country can stage a successful coup, the Armed Forces. The evidence is that the military leadership is behind the administration. The critical element in a military defection from government is massive popular unrest. There is no such unrest on the scale and depth that toppled the Estrada administration.

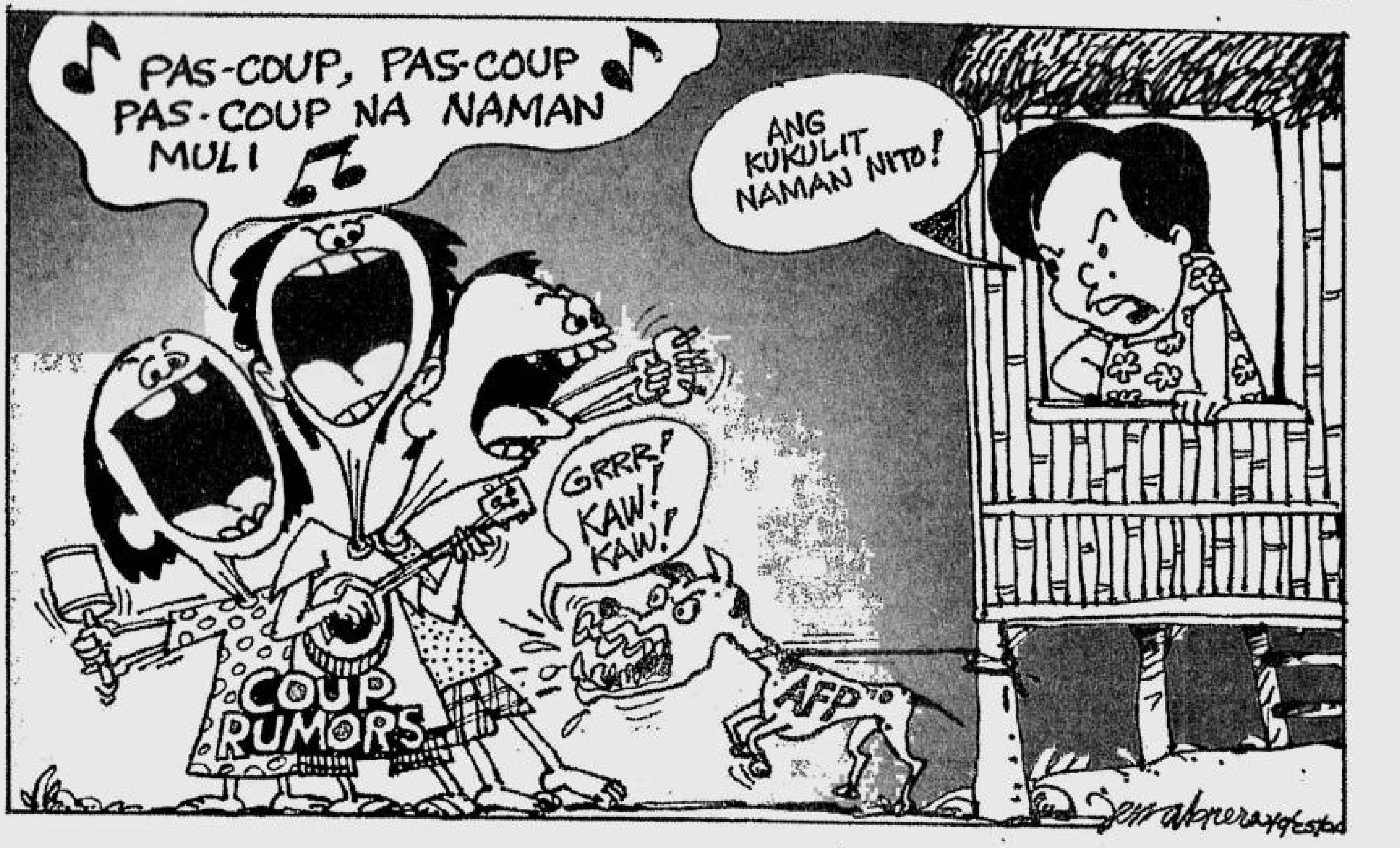
A triggering element is needed to spark a crisis leading to military defection or power seizure. The impeachment trial of Estrada served as the triggering event. The trial of Estrada in the Sandiganbayan on charges of plunder does not replicate the flashpoint events of the impeachment trial. The Macapagal administration is not in the throes of a political crisis, and there is no profound issue on which the masses could be mobilized against the administration to induce a military defection.

There is no evidence that the opposition has the capability to stage a coup, even though it has within its fold incurable coup plotters and agitators ready to exploit grievances to incite rebellion. As far as evidence goes, the opposition's capability to mount a coup is not any better than its capability to topple the Macapagal administration on May 1, when the mobs were used as human waves to attack Malacañang, while the tiny armed component, composed of AWOL officers of the notorious PAOCFT of then PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, stayed in safe havens waiting for the mob to make a breach on the Palace defenses.

Coup plotters had better be sure they have all these elements of a successful coup in place before they make a move. Scenarios of power seizure never repeat themselves in great detail. Coup plotters who never learn the mistakes of failed coup attempts are indulging in fantasy.

Admittedly, the sitting government is mired in the economic slowdown, and is buffeted by rising criminality, and is battling the Abu Sayyaf terrorism in Mindanao, but its shortfalls have not been sufficient to arouse nationwide outrage. Coups are not self-fulfilling. Neither can they be made to take off by spreading rumors.

There is absolutely no basis or evidence to take coup rumors seriously. The government and the public should not lose sleep over them. There are more important things to do, such as getting on with the job of rebuilding the economy.



DENR is a Jekyll-and-Hyde department

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. wants to elevate the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources into a full department "to protect the country's vast fishing grounds and raise fish production."

Considering that two-thirds of the country's territorial area is water, covering a total area of 171 million hectares, the creation of a new department is necessary, he said. The government has a "traditional bias for land-based agriculture," he added, "to the prejudice of marine and other water-based food production activities."

Pimentel filed Senate Bill 838 creating the DFAR "to manage, develop, protect, conserve and utilize all fisheries and aquatic resources in the country. But municipal waters will remain under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs)."

The principal purpose of the new department is to increase fish production and at the same time promote "sustainable development of marine resources in Philippine waters, including the Exclusive Economic Zone and in adjacent high seas to maintain a sound ecological balance."

Very well, but wouldn't it be better to separate the Department of Environment from the Department of Natural Resources? The present DENR is a contradiction. The two departments have contradictory objectives. The Natural Resources part seeks to exploit the wealth of the environment while the Environment part seeks to preserve it. The DENR is like a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality.

Often, the DENR secretary is torn between protecting the environment and developing natural resources. There are numerous conflicts between environmentalists and miners, loggers, fishermen and quarry operators. Disposal of garbage alone is always a big fight. In most of these conflicts, the DENR usually decides in favor of the exploiters because they have influence and generous lobby money while the environmentalists have none.

But every time the environment loses, the loss is irreversible. When a species of animal or plant becomes extinct, it is lost forever. No amount of money or legislation can make it come back. When a forest is cut down to give way to a golf course, that's the end of it. When a coral reef or a mangrove swamp is decimated, or the waters of a river, a lake, or a bay is polluted, that's the end of life in these areas. It is important that nature be preserved before it is lost irretrievably. This cannot be done by a single department with two masters, which the DENR is.

A separate Department of Environment, independent of the Department of Natural Resources, is necessary. More important, the DE should be superior to the DNR to avoid a stalemate between the two departments in cases of conflict between the two. The environment should always have priority.

In the United States, the Environment Protection Agency belongs to the Office of the President, so it has more clout. We can either have our own version of the EPA or have an independent Department of Environment. We can even make it a constitutional body, as a symbol of our concern for the environment and to protect it from the winds of politics and budget-making.

Destruction of the environment, deterioration of the land, sea and air, the disappearance of animals and plants go on quietly, almost unnoticed. But as stated earlier, these losses, these deaths are permanent. In the words of Macbeth, "what is done, cannot be undone." The environment is slowly but surely losing the struggle. When the environment goes, we go with it.

Let us save it, and with it, ourselves before it is too late.

* * *

It is also getting late for the garbage problem. The garbage piles everywhere are getting bigger and more numerous and nobody is collecting them, because there is no place in which to dump them. Everywhere MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos turns for a dump, he is met by angry residents. Who wants to live next door to a garbage dump? Some mayors, old friends of Abalos, try to help but their constituents overrule them. And the mayors dare not disobey their constituents, otherwise they will cease to be mayors by 2004—or sooner via recall elections.

Declaration of a state of emergency in Metro Manila—which allows the mayors to use 5 percent of their calamity funds for garbage disposal—won't do much good either, except dissipate the money uselessly. Where would they dump the garbage?

The trouble with Abalos is that until now he still dreams of having a friendly municipality agree to the use of part of its territory as his garbage dump. You won't find that, Chairman Abalos. The most sensible thing to do at this late date is to have a sanitary landfill away from any community so it won't bother anybody. As I said many times before, that place can only be the sea.

Abalos seems to have already accepted the idea. He even pinpointed the proposed site—off Tondo. He said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has already agreed. But when I checked with Atienza, he said they had not yet discussed the details. So Mr. Abalos, give him the details. It's getting very late.

The beauty of reclamation with garbage is that you kill two birds with one stone: you get rid of the trash and you reclaim hectares and hectares of free land. In land-hungry Metro Manila, that could translate into billions of pesos for the host LGU.

Ads

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I NEVER got around to commenting on this earlier, but I'm glad the gay community in this country has protested the PLDT ad that perpetuates, or perpetrates, the stereotype of gays.

The ad, for those who haven't seen it, features the continuing story of the Pinoy guy in the United States who married a woman named Gracia. The gay in the ad, presumably the Pinoy guy's best friend, is telling him over the phone that he (the guy) and his wife are the object of vicious gossip. The guy is dismayed, and wonders why that is so. They've already gone back, he says, so he cannot imagine why such stories persist. He wonders who could be spreading them. The gay makes a face and says he has absolutely no idea.

The punch line there of course is that it's the gay, who wants the guy for himself, who has been doing so. In a previous "episode," he was shown breaking down in tears at the news that his best friend was about to marry Gracia. In a subsequent one, he was shown banging his head against a post while Gracia was being introduced (a lovely *mestiza* of course)—an odd-person-out amid the general gaiety (truly, no pun intended) of the scene.

I remember again Joel Lamangan saying in his talk at PRESS how hard it is for gays to be thought of in serious terms. A monumental wonder, considering that gays have shown themselves to be perfectly serious, particularly in the arts: many of the best actors, directors and scriptwriters in this country are gay. The local movie industry, Lamangan said, would grind to a halt if gays were to stage a walkout for one reason or another. Yet it's everything they can do to change the public's perception of gays as screaming faggots, or the producers' insistence on having gays in movies only as comic relief.

The PLDT ad not only hangs on to this miserable tradition, it adds whole new dimensions to it. I like humor and irreverence as much as the next fellow. But I draw the line at offensiveness. This one says some pretty offensive things about gays. Not least that gays are unreliable friends, who will stab you in the back as soon as look at you. Or probably more to the point, they are *bantay-salakay*, people who try to appear as though they are looking after your welfare when they are really conspiring against it. Or probably still more to the point, hell hath no fury like a *bakla* scorned. Maybe the crude types will find humor in all this. But I don't know that PLDT's intended market consists of them.

Certainly, it is not a little ironic that a product advertising itself as a tool for better communication should demonstrate its capability only to communicate horrendous values. It is not a little ironic that a product advertising itself as a means for getting the most authentic and heartfelt emotions across should convey only the most jaded and cynical clichés to its audience. The gay community already registered its unhappiness over the ad some months ago. A fact obviously that failed to register with PLDT, which has not only continued to capitalize on the fame, or notoriety, of the ad, but has raised the ante on its gay-bashing.

Well, it may not have the last laugh when rumors of the ad's unworthiness spread like wildfire. PLDT may be sure at least that the gay community alone won't be the source of those rumors.

* * *

Robin Padilla has a curious ad on TV. It's for Beer na Beer. It starts out well enough. Padilla is contrite: He talks about his wild past and how it nearly wrecked his life. As a result of his wildness, he lost his friends, he lost his career and he lost his freedom. The last, as everybody knows, refers to his being jailed for several years for illegal possession of firearms. But he has put that past behind him. He begs the youth of today to do the same thing, to turn a new leaf if they have taken the wild side, and to not do it if they haven't yet.

"*Magbago na tayo, mga 'tol*," he says fervently. And his friends chorus just as fervently, "*Tama, kaya wala na 'tong iwanan, 'tol.*"

The wrong note of course is the last line.

Before that, you have a perfectly good, even praiseworthy, ad. For all his disgrace with fortune and men's eyes, Padilla continues to claim a following among many Filipino moviegoers, especially the youth who idolize him. A contrite Padilla is not a bad role model, and he lives up to it with no small amount of sincerity and passion. If he can influence others to follow the same path, I'll help pin a medal on him. His message, moreover, little detracts from the creativity of the ad. You know he's talking from the heart. That's what makes it not preachy.

But then comes the mind-boggling, "*Tama, kaya wala na 'tong iwanan, 'tol.*" It's not merely inane, the product's motto being forced to intrude suddenly and nonsensically into the picture, it's also monumentally ironic. Especially so with Erap being of very recent memory. "*Walang iwanan*" was of course the motto Erap and his friends lived by—which also reminds you that Beer na Beer's owner, Lucio Tan, was very much one of them.

"*Walang iwanan*" is not the way out of the reckless, irresponsible, and indeed criminal life, it is the road that leads straight to it. That is the unspoken credo of the *barkada*, the fraternity, the gang of cutthroats. It doesn't matter what you do, I'll stick by you through thick and thin. That is what our friendship is made of, that is what our *samahan* is made of. Well, that is this country's greatest crimes are made of, that is where this country's greatest downfalls are made of. Not least Padilla's, the guy who's making the pitch in the ad. That's what brought him to the miserable pass he has just left, a life lived by the code of "*walang iwanan.*" *Hindi ganyan ang pagbago, 'tol.*

Of course, Lucio Tan himself has quite another code, which roughly translates as, "*Walang iwanan sa ligaya, diyan ka na sa dusa.*" But that's another—ad.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Colorum delegates

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—We arrived here a few days ago to find the city under tight guard, doubtless influenced by events in other hemispheres. Police presence is quite marked especially in the commercial areas, where one can see policemen in some corners standing in pairs, wearing armored vests over their blue uniforms. Small electric police cars, similar to what golfers use, are stationed on the peripheries of parks. Later, I made this observation about the heavy presence of policemen to Philippine Ambassador Carlos Villa-Abrille, and he said that it has been like this since the terrorist attacks in the United States.

One has to connect this to two facts not known to the outside world: Buenos Aires is home to the third biggest Jewish community in the world, next only to Tel Aviv and New York City, and there's a very large community of Shi'ite Muslims here as well. A few years back, the Israeli embassy was bombed, so the current apprehension is understandable, given Osama bin Laden's railing at Israel's "aggression" toward Palestine.

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Another big reason for the extra-heavy security is the fact that the 18th convention of the World Energy Council is being held here, drawing hundreds of participants from various parts of the globe on the theme "Energy Markets: The Challenges of the New Millennium." Security at the convention site has been quite tight, with the delegates' and visitors' identities checked and cross-checked by computers, complete with fingerprint-identification.

***

The Philippines has a sizable delegation to the WEC, led by Energy Secretary Vicente Perez and four members of Congress, namely, Senators John Osmeña and Renato Cayetano, and Representatives Bong Badelles and Florencio Abad, who are joined by officials from the Department of Energy and the Energy Development Corp. and the PNOC Exploration Corp. and representatives from the energy private sector such as Caltex's Oscar Reyes, former Trade Secretary Peter Garrucho and Jesus Francisco.

The WEC, a leading global multi-energy organization founded in 1923, gathered in this convention energy producers and providers, marketers, users, policymakers and decision-makers from all over the world. It is an honor for the Philippines that the incoming WEC chair for 2002 to 2004 is a Filipino, Antonio V. del Rosario, president and CEO of Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. and president of the Petroleum Association of the Philippines.

***

Buenos Aires is a lovely gracious city of art shops and theaters, many well-kept and elegant parks, quaint cobbled streets and wide tree-lined avenues. It is considered the most European-looking of all the capitals in South America; seasoned travelers opine that it reminds them a lot of Barcelona, though the people are dressed more like those of Athens, instead of the elegant Catalans. The Argentines appear to be warmer and more amiable than their Spanish forebears, if also a bit rowdier.

But despite its capital's loveliness, travel to Argentina can be quite tiring, for it is way down in the globe, so close to the tip of the Southern Hemisphere. Cayetano and Badelles found this out the hard way. They arrived here after a long exhausting trip involving a nonstop 15-hour flight from Hong Kong to Johannesburg in South Africa and a 13-hour connecting trip to Buenos Aires, which did not count the long wait at airports in Hong Kong and Sao Paolo. Later, as we gathered for a buffet dinner at Ambassador Villa-Abrille's lovely apartment in a chic neighborhood, Cayetano swore that even if a pot of gold awaits him in Buenos Aires, he most likely would not come.

Osmeña wisely broke the long trip with a few days' stay in Madrid, while Abad came via Brussels from a political conference where he represented the Liberal Party. My husband and I took a direct flight from Sydney, with one stop at Auckland, New Zealand, which is the cheapest and shortest route to Buenos Aires.

***

Energy Secretary Perez had a significant role to play in the conference as he presented a paper on the world energy market challenges from the Philippine perspective. Later he gathered top industry players at a cocktail reception. But when he arrived, Perez discovered to his consternation that his luggage had been misplaced, and it looks like he's going home without locating it at all. Travelers have to be always prepared for such an eventuality, but this could be a nightmare for someone who is attending a high-level international conference.

Thus, though still unable to shake his jet lag, Perez, accompanied by the ambassador, had to look in a hurry for a suit before reading his paper. I understand that members of the delegation contributed apparel to Perez, with one shirt donated by Cayetano and another by Badelles. Quipped Perez: "I made sure there was equal representation between the two chambers in my charity case, lest my confirmation before the Commission on Appointments be jeopardized."

***

But Perez's headaches in Buenos Aires did not stop with the lost luggage. When Cayetano and Badelles arrived, they found out that their names were not on the list of the official delegation. To quote Badelles, this made them "colorum delegates." Villa-Abrille, who was listening to the banter, quipped that he had heard about "colorum jeepneys and buses" but this was the first time he heard about "colorum delegates." Cayetano feigned anger and told Perez that he and Badelles were considering taking the next flight out since their presence was embarrassing. Cayetano also told Perez to be ready to explain the fiasco when he appears before the CA soon. *Naku*, quipped Abad, *nadagdagan ka na naman ng isang* folder. Abad was referring to the practice of logging complaints on CA nominees in folders.

We all had a big laugh about what had happened, although Perez was visibly embarrassed. Actually the two lawmakers' non-inclusion on this list was quite ironic, not only because they were the first delegates to arrive but also because they happen to be co-chair of the Joint Congressional Power Commission. Cayetano and Badelles head the energy committees in their respective chambers and their term in the Power Commission is for 10 years. As Cayetano explained it, their position as Power Commission co-chair is quite powerful since it is one of a few posts created by law. RA 9136, the Electric Industry Reform Act, gave this commission the power to implement the rules on the privatization of Napocor, review the terms and conditions of its contracts and endorse them.

Surviving garbage

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

WITH THE CLOSING of the San Mateo landfill last December and the beginning of the garbage crisis now declared a Metro Manila-wide emergency requiring calamity funds, two-year-old Parañaque City was given an award by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for apparently having its part of the crisis well in hand.

NGO initiative in Parañaque had after all already established eco-waste centers managing the garbage of several subdivisions according to solid waste management principles, even before a law on it was passed.

Five months since the passage of RA 9003 once more reveal the deep gulf between government and NGO culture glossed over by that award. The awful truth is that most of the city's 539 tons of daily garbage is still being literally swept under the rug, with government itself thumbing its nose on the new law. For want of its own landfill, Parañaque, like Marikina, is dumping the bulk of its garbage in "secret dumps" with the approval of the MMDA and local officials, revealing officialdom's state of denial in this crisis.

A city hall source refuses to give details but admits that those "secret dumps in Cavite, Bulacan, Laguna and Pasig" are decided on daily by the MMDA. In a covert operation approved by the mayor's office, these sites are communicated daily to city hall and passed on to the garbage contractor. The ensuing journey of this garbage from a "transfer station" (beside Parañaque's old cemetery, if you must know) to those secret dumps takes place when the citizenry is sound asleep in the wee hours. The idea is to keep environmentalists and other fussy citizens from obstructing what my city hall source calls "our only choice right now."

Characterizing the operation as "*parang guerra,*" a top city official confirms this garbage disposal modus operandi for which Parañaque pays the MMDA P4 million a month. The bottom line reality of garbage volume is such that "*kung hindi hahakutin ang basura, wala nang madadaanang kalye.*" With an existential sigh, a city hall employee who goes along on those covert operations describes a Metro Manila-wide reality: "*Malinis lang pag tulog ang tao. Pagsikat na pagsikat ng liwanag, tapon na naman.*"

Of course, adds this source, 90 cubic meters of those 539 tons is absorbed by a "recovery facility" on the Coastal Road where bio-degradable garbage is separated from saleable scrap and "mixed waste" for processing into hydro mix cement. But, even added to the garbage load lightened by eco-waste centers in the city's subdivisions, those 90 cubic meters are a drop in Parañaque's gargantuan garbage bucket, let alone the total 6,000 tons generated by all of Metro Manila every blessed day.

But doesn't the spirit of RA 9003 lie in the principle that garbage disposal must begin with segregation at the source? "*Imposible,*" responds my informant with another sigh, "*talagang hindi gagawin ng tao,*" pointing out that even the new law is no help in compelling new behavior without political will. In a major oversight, RA 9003 penalizes the contractor, not households and establishments, for unsegregated garbage. That Parañaqueños, whose well-heeled local government can well afford real collection bins, are learning to dump in unsightly designated places on sidewalks (such as they are) instead of against their neighbor's wall is the present extent of compliance with the spirit of RA 9003.

Multiply that with Manila's 10 million inhabitants a.k.a. garbage-generators (give or take a few responsible thousands now practicing segregation), throw in sweetheart deals between city hall and garbage contractors, add the fact that even secret dumps will soon run out, and the immediate future is grim indeed.

Three things can and must begin to happen in the opposite direction.

One, RA 9003 must be revised with stiff penalties for individual garbage-generators who refuse to segregate. Two, NGOs and the media need to recommend sanctions on the likes of Mayor Joey Marquez and MMDA officials for those secret dumps. Three, large and small industrial establishments in Parañaque need to join hands with the visionaries of the eco-waste movement in their own backyard and together clear the way to a new popular culture faster.

We have yet to hear from health officials about direct connections between the garbage crisis and the flu and dengue epidemics but no more than common sense is required to draw a straight line between these two points. For sheer survival, those who are awake need to wake as many as they can if Metro Manila is not to drown in its own filth, worrying about Muslim terrorists while ignoring the real terror in our midst.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

'A vanished gender'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"IN MAZAR stands the Tomb of Rabia Balkhi, a beautiful, tragic medieval poetess. She was the first woman of her time to write love poems in Persian and died tragically after her brother slashed her wrists as punishment for sleeping with a slave lover. She wrote her last poem in her own blood as she lay dying. For centuries young Uzbek girls and boys treated her tomb with saint-like devotion and would pray there for success in their love affairs. After the Taliban captured Mazar, they placed her tomb out of bounds. Love, even for a medieval saint, was now out of bounds."

Sounds like a Heloise and Abelard story, the real-life lovers separated in a most cruel manner but who were later united in death ("Stealing Heaven" the movie). Their graves in France continue to draw people in love.

That quote is from the book "Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia" by Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani journalist who covers Pakistan, Central Asia and Afghanistan for the Daily Telegraph and the Far Eastern Economic Review and broadcasts with the BBC, CNN and other news groups.

A friend of mine, a Filipina married to a British national stationed in Pakistan, brought me the book. She was with the first batch of expats urged to leave Pakistan in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. As soon as she arrived, she called to say she had three books on the Taliban. One of them was Rashid's, the other two by a military-man-turned-diplomat and by an Oxford professor.

Rashid, who had covered the war in Afghanistan and who knows the terrain like he does the palm of his hand, I had to read first. His words leaped at me. A good journalist makes you feel the heat, taste the dust and listen to conversations and at the same time makes you see the bigger picture.

The book was 21 years in the writing, about as long as Rashid covered Afghanistan. The war there he describes as the longest running civil war in this era. Rashid puts in a lot of history and culture, giving parts of his book the rich texture of "A Thousand and One Nights." A reviewer described it as James Bond-ish: "Warring tribes, clashing empires, fanatics with dreams of world domination, violence and sex..." Quite riveting.

Rashid on the Afghans: "Brave, magnificent, honourable, generous, hospitable, gracious, handsome, Afghan men and women can also be devious, mean and bloody-minded. Over the centuries, trying to understand the Afghans and their country was turned into a fine art and a game of power politics by the Persians, the Mongols, the British, the Soviets and most recently the Pakistanis. But no outsider has ever conquered them or claimed their soul. Only the Afghans could have been capable of keeping two empires—Britain and the Soviet Union—at bay in this century. But in the last 21 years of conflict, they have paid an enormous price—over 1.5 million dead and the total destruction of their country."

And now comes the US pounding into dust the Taliban lair and smoking out Osama bin Laden in this so-called war against terrorism, the war without borders.

I read the first three chapters and then plunged into Chapter 8, "A Vanished Gender: Women, Children and Taliban Culture." There have been worldwide campaigns against the Taliban's oppression of women but the cruelty continues. Rashid has seen what it's like.

"Nobody ever wants to see the inside of Maulvi Qalamuddin's sparse office in the centre of Kabul. Half the population never will anyway, because the Maulvi does not allow women to even enter the building. A huge Pashtun tribesman with enormous feet and hands, a long thick nose, black eyes and bushy black beard that touches his desk while he talks, Qalamuddin's physique and name generate fear across the city. As head of the Taliban's religious police, the stream of regulations he issues from this office has dramatically changed the lifestyle of Kabul's once easy-going population and forced Afghan women to disappear entirely from public view...

"The day I visited him for a rare interview in the summer of 1997, he had just issued new regulations...'Stylish dress and decoration of women in hospitals is forbidden. Women are duty-bound to behave with dignity, to walk calmly and refrain from hitting their shoes on the ground, which makes noises,' the edict read. How the zealots could even see the women's makeup or their shoes, considering that all women were garbed in the head-to-toe *burkha* was mystifying.

"The new edict formalized previous restrictions on disallowing women from working, but it now also banned them from working for Western humanitarian aid agencies...

"For the Taliban anyone questioning these edicts, which have no validity in the Koran, is tantamount to questioning Islam itself, even though the Prophet Mohammed's first task was to emancipate women. But the Taliban did not allow even Muslim reporters to question these edicts or to discuss interpretations of the Koran...

"The Taliban's uncompromising attitude was also shaped by their own internal political dynamic and the nature of their recruiting base. Their recruits—the orphans, the rootless, the lumpen proletariat from the war and the refugee camps—had been brought up in a totally male society. In the *madrassa* milieu, control over women and their virtual exclusion was a powerful symbol of manhood and a reaffirmation of the students' commitment to jihad. Denying a role for women gave the Taliban a kind of false legitimacy amongst these elements."

The Islamic world, says Rashid, has been silent on the Taliban's extremism. Except Iran which surprisingly issued "the toughest defence of women's rights under Islam."

Surprise in Chapter 10, "Global Jihad: The Arab-Afghans and Osama Bin Laden." Rashid bumps into "Filipino Moros" training at a camp "to fight the jihad with the Mujaheddin and to train in weapons, bomb-making and military tactics so they could take the jihad back home..."

Soundtrack of life

YOUNGBLOOD

Misael Ondong

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THEY say you're past your prime when you start pining for the old days. If so, I must be getting old. Sometimes I feel like going back to when things were simpler, when life was a Sunday afternoon walk in the park and the future looked so bright I had to walk around wearing shades. But those days are gone and, like Atlantis and Milton's Paradise, forever lost to us.

What would you change if you could alter the past?

Me, I'd give more attention to my cassette tapes and find better ways to keep them in tip-top condition. This is because my tape collection is the soundtrack of my coming of age. Each cassette conjures fond recollections of someone dear or something funny that happened in the past, triggering a flood of flashbacks that sweeps me back in time.

I've been collecting heavy metal and hard-rock albums since I was in high school. I was in second year when my brother, now an AM radio news hound, introduced me to Bon Jovi while drinking with his buddies. He played the band's "Slippery When Wet" cassette and told me to listen. From that moment on, my musical inclination went askew and veered toward the extreme. Lately I had to explain to him that Linkin Park is to the gentxt what Bon Jovi was to the 1980s.

In time my cassettes overflowed carton boxes and became the envy of fellow metalheads. After a while, I discovered Nirvana and the other stalwarts of the so-called alternative scene: Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Faith No More, Soundgarden, Hole and Smashing Pumpkins. Venturing further, I came across college radio staples like the Lemonheads, Blake Babies and the Eels, and, further still, the more obscure Vanilla Trainwreck, Chainsaw Kittens, the Caulfields and Dillon Fence.

Later I gave in to the lure of the Beatles and the Doors and soon found myself hooked on the psychedelic swirl of the stoned age. The only problem is, recordings of the tie-dyed generation are hard to come by. It's a pity they don't sell Janis Joplin records anymore. Bummer.

I never go anywhere without my tapes. Everywhere I move, I lug them along in boxes. And even if I now compile CDs, it kills me every time a cassette succumbs to molds and dust. It's mushy, I know, but I'd give almost anything to have my tapes restored to their original state. If Santa were real and granted me only one wish, I'd ask that he repair my tapes. I'm not sure, though, whether I'd go so far as to bargain with Mephistopheles, having had ample warning from Goethe.

Why fuss about cassette tapes? Why the schmaltz about thin strips of plastic-coated ferrous oxide? Why wax eloquent on analog schlock when digital is all the rage?

It's quite simple. I rant because life is short. By rote we mouth this worn-out saw, and it is so familiar we simply take it for granted. Yet we keep forgetting how fleeting life really is. We relegate this foreboding to the dim recesses of reminiscence, where it meanders as figment of thought, a vague notion in the back of our head. We decry its significance when it's too late, when the end is nigh and the Grim Reaper is staring us in the face.

I hate to state the obvious, but therein lies the faint connection. My tapes are there to mark my time, to remind me to rage against the dying of the light.

And what's the point of this morbid drivel? Not much: only that life is too ephemeral to be wasted on insouciance, on living without passion, bereft of drive. This is a dirge, but only for those who wallow in apathy, those who thrive vicariously and those who merely skirt the fringes. This is the swan song for those who forgot what it means to be alive.

This is for the motormouths who blabber on without saying anything. This is for the nosy wags who know everything about everyone. This is for the "*kitikitexts*" who'd rather send messages to someone far away than talk to the one beside them. This is for the disco flies who don't dance but sulk in the corner and whine.

And, yes, this is for those who only work for a living but never for pride, excellence or fun. This is for those who have found the truth and those who know the way to salvation. This is for the power hungry and the power mad, and those who wield power to oppress the powerless.

You know what this is? This is the knell for you and your ilk. John Donne put it this way: Never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.

Misael Ondong, 28, graduated with an AB in English Literature from Silliman University and now works with the City Tourism Office of Dapitan.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Factoran's case

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines engineering student Den Daniel Reyes, a member of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity, was stabbed to death during a rumble with the Sigma Rho Fraternity. The rumble erupted in front of the UP Law Center in Diliman, Quezon City on Feb. 10, 2000.

Witnesses tagged Sigma Rhoans Fulgencio "Bibit" Factoran III, son of former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., Gil Taway IV and Marcelo Rongo as Reyes' assailants. After investigation, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group filed a murder complaint against the three suspects with the Quezon City Prosecutors Office.

On Sept. 8, 2000, Assistant City Prosecutor Francisco Soller issued a resolution downgrading the crime to homicide. He argued that the qualifying circumstances which would warrant the filing of an information for murder were not established by the complainants.

The information for homicide was filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Nov. 23. It was raffled off to Branch 83. The accused posted bail of P40,000 each the next day.

On Nov. 28, the Reyeses filed a motion seeking the indictment of the accused for murder. They also asked for the deferment of the arraignment.

The accused likewise filed a motion for the deferment of the arraignment and the suspension of proceedings as they filed a petition for review with the Department of Justice to reverse Soller's resolution and dismiss the case against them. The Reyeses, in their comment, asked that the charge be upgraded to murder.

The arraignment was scheduled several times afterwards but the defense moved to cancel and reset it, citing several pending motions, including the petition with the DOJ. On March 29, 2001, the complainants asked the DOJ to immediately resolve the petition.

Last June 27, the Reyeses moved for the inhibition of RTC Judge Estrella Estrada "due to perceived bias, partiality and prejudice in favor of the accused." The judge granted the motion the next day, but not for the reason stated in the motion but to put to rest the minds of the complainants. The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Leah Domingo Regala of Branch 226.

The arraignment was set on Aug. 22 but it was again reset at the instance of the defense, which cited the unresolved petition for review with the DOJ.

Case status: The arraignment set last Oct. 18 was again cancelled due to the unresolved petition.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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The coming war over water

DECADES from now, nations will be going to war for water. For if oil represents quality of life issues, water represents our very existence, indeed our specie's survival.

Here in our country water resources could be plentiful. Unfortunately, our ignorance and senseless habits are slowly but surely making that resource very scarce. There is, for instance, the practice of discarding waste materials, including human waste, in our rivers and land. This not only contaminates water and ground soil, it also creates a breeding ground for harmful diseases. This practice has to stop.

It is said that the body can survive 30 days without food but only up to seven days without water. Unless we start understanding how to conserve this valuable resource, we are only hastening our own demise. Our national inclination to always take the easy and convenient route is a practice we have to change.

The way I see it, our government and schools can do a lot to prevent, if not put an end, to this noxious habit. And it can do so effectively through early education and constant media campaign.

I am a 93-year-old retiree. I worked with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (formerly NWSA) as chief of the customer service department. In all likelihood, I will not be around long enough to see any meaningful change in our outlook toward protecting our environment, and that really saddens me. For I do believe that water will become more important than oil as a commodity in the future. Sooner than later, countries with poor financial means like the Philippines will suffer tremendously from its scarcity.—**JOSE C. PASAMBA, 34 Don Matias St., Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City**

Many losers in PSE controversy

WITH THE REINSTATEMENT by the Philippine Stock Exchange board of Ramon T. Garcia (whom the board fired earlier) to the presidency and the return of Manuel V. Pangilinan to the board (from which he earlier resigned), is the controversy over the relocation of the PSE now nearing resolution? Has a win-win formula been finally found?

I am afraid, it's a lose-lose standoff for both parties. And a number of very important people are losing face.

The Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. has had to swallow the bitter pill of retreating from its initial position on the relocation issue and was forced to sweeten its offer to the PSE. The owners and top honchos of the FBDC and Metro Pacific have already lost face, and they have to choose between losing more face or losing more good money. The indications are that they'll choose the former. The decision by the owners of Metro Pacific to put their controlling stake in the FBDC, often referred to as their "crown jewel," on the auction block is a clear indication that cash flow has taken center stage. Saving face has to be relegated to the background, at least for now.

Another big loser is the PSE, its owner-members in particular. It's dream of a unified exchange at the Global City by 2004 will remain just that, a dream. The PSE cannot now hope to push the FBDC and Metro Pacific to make further concessions simply because it has little leverage left.

The biggest loser, I believe, is the PSE board. It is perceived as having failed in its duty to uphold the interest of the PSE. It chose to fire its president and CEO, who from all indications was zealous in protecting the vital interest of the PSE, while it asked Pangilinan to reconsider his resignation from the board. Confronted with the possibility of a revolt among its stockbroker-members, the board flip-flopped, reinstating Garcia to his old position, only to compel him to take a leave of absence until the end of his term in March 2002. In simple terms, the board rehired its president on condition that he refrain from performing his job. Strange corporate governance.

Fortunately, there are some winners too. The two members of the PSE Building Committee, both appointees of the board, who quit their post, came out looking good. They apparently saw that the position of the PSE board was at variance with their own position in the negotiations with the FBDC. The firing of Garcia could only have confirmed their worst fears.

For Garcia, his reinstatement as president must have been a vindication of sorts, though far from being a complete one since all authority was taken away from him.

Still, many think that Garcia acted rashly. I know him to be a patient and prudent man. That press conference last Sept. 17, where he lambasted Pangilinan and the FBDC, surprised me. And when it became evident that he was taking on the board as well, we were surprised all the more.

To this writer, what was becoming clear was that Garcia, who was then CEO of the PSE, had decided to elevate the issue between the PSE and the FBDC from the realm of private negotiations to a public one. Why? No doubt to put pressure on Pangilinan and the FBDC (which from all indications succeeded) and to force the hand of the PSE board (which has yet to materialize). It was a bold move but a risky one for him, as it turned out. I suspect that Garcia had lost confidence in the board even before it lost confidence in him and fired him.

Is Garcia a mere pawn in this controversy as some columnists and readers insinuate? At 73 and (almost) relishing retirement, a man with a simple lifestyle who built his career on the linchpin of honesty and integrity, would he throw all that now, and for what? I believe that we have in Garcia, his own man. One of the few good men.—**MELITO M. RICAFRENTE, 7 Maj. Dizon St., IVC, Marikina City**

LETTERS

Responsibilities of a senator

PUBLISHED in one of the dailies recently was a photo of Sen. Ralph Recto cheering for his alma mater, De La Salle University, during its final game with Ateneo in the UAAP basketball tournament last Oct. 16. The game began at about 5 p.m. and lasted until close to 7 p.m.

Interestingly, that was the time when the Senate was hosting a dinner at the Manila Peninsula to observe its 85th anniversary. The guest of honor was President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was earlier reported to be planning to watch the game at the Araneta Coliseum. I am glad she had enough sense to choose the Senate affair over the basketball game.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of Recto, who apparently is not yet very clear about the responsibilities of a senator of the land. He skipped an official Senate function to be able to attend the basketball game.

A number of senators, including Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, were also absent. Pimentel was said to be in Cebu for a speaking engagement while Lacson, when asked if he was attending the dinner, was quoted as saying, "No, I have a meeting. And if I did not have a meeting, I will create one just so I won't be at the affair."

Last month, Sen. Ramon Revilla was shown on TV watching at ringside Gerry Peñalosa's boxing fight in Yokohama, Japan. That was the time when the Senate was working overtime to pass the anti-money laundering law.

I am sorry for our people and our country. Our sad state of affairs stems largely from the kind of leaders we have.—**TED TAN, Pansol, Calamba, Laguna**

What about the big guys?

RONALD Lumbao has been finally charged with rebellion for inciting the huge crowd of Edsa III last May 1, 2001. Lumbao really ignited the pent-up anger of the long-suffering poor people by calling on them to storm Malacañang.

But he is just one of the guys. In fact, just a small guy in the company of a "big, bad gang" composed of Loi Estrada, Ernesto Maceda, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ricardo Puno, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, et al. who agitated the mob on May 1.

What about these guys? When will they be charged with rebellion and ordered arrested? They are as guilty as Lumbao. They are the bigger fish.

But this is precisely the problem with our justice system. The small fish is easily caught while the big ones remain free and continue to rob the people of their hard-earned money and plunder the country's wealth.—**MILDRED HEBIA, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City**

Clarifications on CCP row

IN REACTION to the "Cocktales" item titled, "Payback time," we must correct the many inaccuracies and the consequent misimpressions these may have created in connection with Armita Rufino.

Firstly, the present members of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Board of Trustees were "elected" in accordance with the CCP Charter. In addition, they were "appointed" by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure that their positions cannot be legally questioned.

It will be recalled that Rufino refused to honor the validity of the CCP charter provision saying that board vacancies are filled through election by the board members and not by appointment. Although she supposedly resigned after the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, she refused to vacate her position unless President Macapagal "appointed" her successor. Thus Agustin's statement that she resigned to give way to Jardin is incorrect.

Secondly, the present board and management cannot be accused of "knifing" Rufino. She and the members of her family have been given complimentary tickets to the many performances at the CCP. On the occasion of Cecile Licad's concert with the Asian Youth Orchestra however, Rufino returned the complimentary orchestra tickets given to her with a letter from her publicist Bonjin Bolinao saying that the seats given her were not their preferred seats.

The management has formally informed Rufino that unless the Supreme Court rules in her favor, she cannot be accorded the rights of a legitimate former president in the face of the decision of the Court of Appeals declaring her appointment null and void. Thus, the CCP board and management have seen fit, as a gesture of friendship, to give her and her spouse the privilege of free complimentary tickets of her choice. This gesture, however she rejected in a nasty letter to Jardin.

Thirdly, Rufino, even if she were the legitimate president, is not entitled to retirement pay after serving for only two and a half years. Retirement pay accrues to an employee only after serving for at least 20 years or upon reaching the age of 65. We understand, Rufino is only 55.

Finally, the P190 million that the Estrada administration released to the CCP when Rufino was the CCP president was indeed legitimate and has no relation to the illegitimacy of Rufino's presidency. This was part of the P350 million that former CCP president Baltazar Endriga had discovered through research, identified and defended before the Department of Budget and Management, the Bureau of Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and finally before the House of Representatives and the Senate. These were determined and acknowledged by the national government as payable to the CCP when Endriga was forcibly ousted as CCP president. Rufino was fortunate to have been in power when the amount was released by the DBM.

The present CCP board and management continues to hold out their hand in friendship to Rufino. They are hoping that her group will accept it graciously.—**IRENE OBLIGACION-RADA, director for public relations, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **UPGRADE OF THE COMBAT VEHICLE RECONNAISSANCE (TRACKED) [CVR (T)] SCORPION**, with an approved budget of **Sixty Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 67,200,000.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are the manufacturers themselves of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 26, 2001** until **November 13, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, Third Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representatives to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 13, 2001 at 2:00 PM** (local time) at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Prospective bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the Scorpion Tanks and facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **December 4, 2001** at **9:00 AM** (local time) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 25 & 26, 2001)

Demolition of dwellings destroys lives

LAST Oct. 10, we, the residents of C-3 Tulay, North Bay Boulevard-South in Navotas, were stunned when a demolition team from the Department of Public Works and Highways headed by Joel Medillo started to destroy our houses. We did not receive any demolition order or any directive to leave the area within a specific number of days. This is a gross violation of the Lina Law or the Urban Development and Housing Act, which states that before demolishing any area, the residents should be given due notice.

We are still in shock over last week's attack on our homes. The demolition resulted in the death of two infants: Jennifer Rebamontan, eight months old, and Manuel Dorotan Jr., one month old. For their untimely death, someone must pay the price. We must not shrug this off. This is not a simple case. This is murder. They may say this is unwitting infanticide. But someone must pay. And this time, it is the DPWH.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco told us that the DPWH needed to demolish our homes immediately because a Japanese investor would visit the area. Is this Japanese visit worth the death of the two infants? The DPWH must answer for their early demise. They must.

What is the difference between these two poor kids who died in the demolition and one rich kid who is kidnapped? The answer is plain and simple: The police and our justice system neglect the poor kids, while they search for the kidnapper of the rich kid.

The people, and not the property, should be given the first and foremost concern by any demolition team. The government and its demolition teams should give first priority to the people in the area. The people, even if they are poor, are also human beings.

Demolition is not just a simple *"pagwasak ng bahay."* Demolition means *"pagwasak ng buhay,"* because our families are affected, our children cannot go to school and we cannot work because of what happened. We are affected not just physically, but psychologically and emotionally.

Today, the DPWH became a terrorist. The members of the team are criminals who must pay for the deaths of those two kids.—**JIMMY MANANSALA, C-3 Tulay, North Bay Boulevard, Navotas, Manila**

Life-saving tests

WILL wonders ever cease? Our senators conduct an investigation into the drug trade and then find marijuana and shabu in their own galleys, apparently left behind by someone who had attended the investigation. Now the senators want to test each other, and their aides, for drugs.

I've written about the folly of these drug tests. Enough said. Let's look into more useful medical tests, some of which can save lives because they help to detect or monitor diseases.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Many of these tests are actually quite simple, such as the breast self-examination, once described by former Health Secretary Juan Flavier as SSS (you figure out the acronym). Once women learn the procedure, this self-examination can become a daily routine and can help with early detection of breast cancer.

Regular blood pressure checks are also useful but be aware of "white collar hypertension," a phenomenon where your blood pressure shoots up simply because you see a health professional in white. If you do have someone in the family with a serious problem with high blood pressure, you could buy the equipment yourself and ask a trained health professional to teach you to use it. (The "old fashioned" clunky types where you have to listen in with a stethoscope are actually more accurate than modern digital types.)

There's now an amazing array of blood chemistry tests that can be used to detect diseases, from diabetes to ulcers caused by a germ called Helicobacter pylori. Lately, too, at family reunions, I hear people comparing their latest results for blood cholesterol, "good" and "bad" fatty acids.

In the years to come we'll probably see more medical diagnostic tests, including some which use genetic screening to determine one's susceptibility to certain diseases. But I might be jumping too far ahead. Unfortunately, the field of medical diagnostics only highlights the inequities in access to health care. Almost all of our medical diagnostic tests use imported equipment and chemicals so we end up paying through our nose for the tests. The other day, I heard a woman on a radio program reacting to increases in fees at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). A thyroid function test had set her back by P450—just another good meal in a fine restaurant for the wealthy, but two days' wages for many Filipinos.

Kara Magsanoc-Alikapala of the I Can Serve Foundation, a support network for breast cancer, says that a mammogram now costs between P275 and P3,000. Even the lower range is high for poor Filipinos, and that could delay a diagnosis of breast cancer for many people.

Sadly, many poor women will avoid getting a mammogram not just because of the cost of the procedure itself but because they know how expensive it is to treat breast cancer. The result is fatalism: "If they do find out I have breast cancer, what can I do about it?" To some extent, the fears are well founded. Again, Kara furnished me with some shocking figures: one chemo treatment cycle, involving 12 sessions, can cost between P3,000 and almost P100,000. That excludes other drugs like the ones you take to counter the nausea from the chemo.

This is not to discourage people from doing breast self-examination and getting mammograms. In fact, health educators should point out that the earlier the diagnosis for any disease, the higher the chances of cure, and at lower costs. Notice how Kara gives a range for the expenses because government hospitals still subsidize part of the costs.

Besides economics, culture plays an important role in determining whether people take certain tests or not. For example, our religiously conservative culture tells women not to "touch themselves" so some women may find the breast self-examination awkward, maybe even indecent.

Procedures involving doctors are even more awkward. At the NGO I work with (one which works on health issues, mind you), staff members have expressed reluctance to take the Pap smear, a test where cells are taken from the cervix (the neck of the uterus) to check for cancer. My staff members say they might "lose their virginity" taking the test because of the insertion of instruments. That's often said tongue in cheek but many women do complain about discomfort with the procedure. I never forgot one meeting where researchers in Cebu reported on their interviews with women about their experiences with the Pap smear. One woman described the feeling as "gi-jack" referring to the jack you use to fix a flat tire.

Now if a Pap smear is like having a jack inserted, then guess what the equivalent is for men. The Department of Health has been trying, not very successfully, to get men to go for a check-up for possible prostate cancer, the prostate being a small organ near the urinary bladder. To check if the prostate is enlarged, doctors have to perform a digital palpation through the rectum. In lay people's terms, excuse me if I end up sounding vulgar, that means having the doctor's finger up your's.

Not fair to men? Okay, a gender-fair procedure, that is, used for both men and women, is the colonoscopy. That's another up your's procedure except they insert a tube to check for abnormal growths. Like the other procedures I've described, a colonoscopy can be life-saving but then who said life itself was easy?

* * *

I Can Serve has produced a very helpful resource book on breast cancer. Contact Bristol Myers Marketing Department (Tel. No. 8418181 local 3306 or 3312) for a free copy.

The high cost of diagnostic tests is only one of many ethical issues that we face today in medicine. The Philippine Health Social Science Association (PHSSA) is organizing a conference on bioethics from Oct. 26 to 28 at the De La Salle University's Angelo King Center on Estrada Street, Malate. Call Tel. No. 523-9392 for more information.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Philippine airports lack vital facilities

I HAVE been traveling frequently in the Far East and I take interest first in the kind of airports where I disembark. The reception and services available at the passenger terminals leave lasting impressions on me.

Our international airport passenger terminals have long become an embarrassment to me—and I suppose to all Filipinos—whenever I meet or send off friends and business associates. Pity the sending-off or welcoming parties suffering under the elements and separated by iron railings and grills looking like Stalag detainees with no facilities to relieve themselves or a shade under which they can eat lunch while awaiting plane arrivals.

Apparently, the old terminal is a disaster waiting to happen should, heaven forbid, a strong earthquake visit Luzon again.

It is such a pleasant surprise to read in the newspapers that a world-class airport is almost completed and I hope that it is commissioned as scheduled for the benefit of this beautiful country which is now without a beautiful airport.—**EDITHA CARPIO, CRM-Nancy Avenue, B**

Homes, Almanza, Las Piñas City

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Search for more anthrax victims goes on

WASHINGTON—Federal doctors worked around the clock to determine how many people with suspicious symptoms really have anthrax—in addition to 12 confirmed cases—as the anthrax scare widened to include the White House.

Three people have died from the disease.

President George W. Bush declared the White House safe after workers at a mail processing center 10 km away discovered a small concentration of anthrax spores on machinery that sorts letters headed for the executive mansion.

Investigators believe it is possible that some of the White House mail picked up a few spores—not enough to cause inhaled anthrax—as it went through a central Washington mail facility where two workers died from anthrax and at least two others have become seriously ill.

"I'm confident that when I come to work tomorrow, I'll be safe," Bush said Tuesday. "I don't have anthrax."

The disclosure came as the administration pledged more aggressive testing of the anthrax trail—and that antibiotics would be given at the first sign anyone else, especially postal workers, who may have been exposed to anthrax-laced mail.

Postal facilities in Washington and New Jersey known to have processed one or more anthrax-tainted letters were closed after environmental testing found the germs lurking inside.

"We're going to err on the side of caution in making sure people are protected," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

"I think that what we have here is a homeland security issue," Postmaster General John E. Potter said Tuesday on ABC-TV's "Nightline." This type of agent introduced into the mail or introduced into any other system around the country certainly threatens the system."

At a northern Virginia hospital, the two seriously ill postal workers were reported to be stable and breathing on their own. Doctors were treating them not only with the now-famous drug Cipro but with two additional medications—Clindamycin and Rifampin—in hopes the extra medication could better battle both the anthrax bacteria and the toxin those germs are pumping into the patients' bodies.

Six weeks after the terrorists attacks that killed thousands, the FBI released the text of three anthrax-tainted letters that suggest a connection: Each bore the date Sept. 11, the day that 19 suicide hijackers flew planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and crashed another in a southwestern Pennsylvania field. The letters contained anti-American and anti-Israeli messages.

"You can not stop us. We have this anthrax. You die now. Are you afraid? Death to America. Death to Israel. Allah is great," said the letter to Daschle.

Bush said, "We're working hard at finding out who's doing this."

The confirmed anthrax toll stood at 12, half the deadly inhaled form of anthrax and the other half the easily treatable skin form. A Florida tabloid photo editor and two Washington postal workers have died from the inhaled form.

Five more inhaled cases are suspected, including a New Jersey postal worker hospitalized near Trenton. The woman worked at a Trenton-area postal facility believed to have processed at least three anthrax-laced letters—one sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, the second to NBC News anchorperson Tom Brokaw and the third to The New York Post. *AP*

Global efforts squeeze al-Qaida on all fronts

NEW YORK—A massive investigation, unprecedented international cooperation and military strikes on Afghanistan are squeezing the terrorist network of Osama bin Laden more than ever before.

But experts say the pressure must be sustained over a long period and that any cell operating within such a loose network could escape detection and carry out an attack.

Police have arrested more than 1,000 people in over 40 countries worldwide—including the United States. European authorities have uncovered cells in Spain, Germany and Italy and thwarted additional plots. Sixty-two countries have ordered their financial institutions to freeze assets, according to the US Treasury, and the United States has publicly named businesses from Germany to Yemen that it believes are fronts for Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

WAR without borders

"They've been really hurt by what's going on," said Larry Johnson, a former deputy chief of counterterrorism at the state department. "This kind of attention, on top of disrupting their travel, makes it more difficult for them to do anything."

Loren Thompson, a national security expert at the Washington-based Lexington Institute for policy, said the degree of cooperation in fighting terrorism since the Sept. 11 attacks matched "the level of trauma" the world experienced.

"We have been trying for a better part of a decade to use foreign law enforcement and intelligence to contain bin Laden, but today's level of coordination and effort and urgency is unprecedented."

CIA officials warn, however, that reprisals can come at any time and there is no way to know what stages additional planning may have been in before Sept. 11.

Others say al-Qaida might feel the need to lash out soon to show that they are still operational.

In order to keep the organization pinned down, the level of pressure now on Bin Laden and other terror groups would need to be sustained for a long period of time, said L. Paul Bremer, who was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism in 1986.

"The fight against terrorism is going to become the organizing principle for American foreign policy for the rest of the decade, much like curtailing and defeating communism was in the 1950s," he said. "You can sustain this for a long time."

The United States believes Bin Laden was behind the deadly 1998 US Embassy attacks in East Africa that killed 231 people—219 Africans and 12 Americans—and the bombing of the USS. Cole off Yemen that killed 19 US servicemen a year later.

But it was the devastating terror attacks of Sept. 11 that spurred the current multifaceted crackdown on the organization.

President George W. Bush has said repeatedly that the war on terrorism would be a lengthy campaign on several fronts and his comments were heralded by key allies from Britain to Australia. *AP*

IRA begins to disarm, boosts peace process

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—Britain's top Northern Ireland official, John Reid, said he would "take immediate steps and measures" Wednesday in response to the Irish Republican Army's announcement that it had put some of its guns and explosives "beyond use."

Neither the IRA nor the international commissioners who confirmed its statement revealed how many weapons were involved, or what was done to them. But Tuesday's unprecedented step satisfied the leader of Northern Ireland's main Protestant party and injected fresh life into the province's staggering peace process.

Protestant politicians who quit the province's government last week over the IRA's refusal to disarm are now expected to return to the power-sharing regime. And Britain will move to scale back its military presence and reshape Northern Ireland's largely Protestant police force.

Reid, Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, said he would announce steps Wednesday to "normalize Northern Ireland society." They are likely to include the demolition of one or more of the British Army's watchtowers in the IRA power base of South Armagh.

The international disarmament commission led by Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain confirmed Tuesday that it had witnessed the IRA "put a quantity of arms completely beyond use." The weapons included arms, ammunition and explosives, the commissioners said. They did not say how much of the IRA's arsenal, estimated at more than 100 tons, had been destroyed.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said the step was good enough for him. He said he would urge his party's three government ministers to resume their offices by Friday—within a week of their resignation over the IRA's refusal to disarm. *AP*

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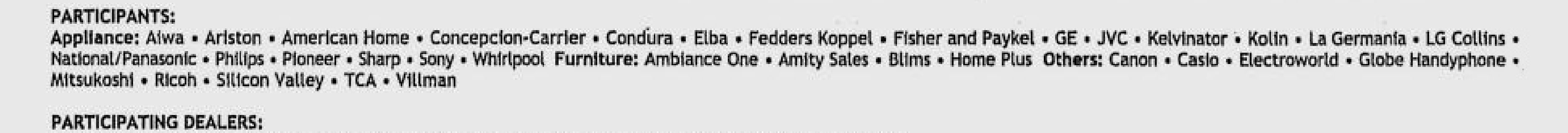

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Israel tightens grip on W. Bank

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops entered two West Bank villages yesterday despite US President George Bush's request that Israel withdraw from Palestinian areas "as quickly as possible." Four Palestinians were killed and seven wounded in clashes.

Israel was sending some signals that it might pull back in the coming days, but continued to insist that first, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat must disarm militant groups, arrest the assassins of an Israeli Cabinet minister and turn them over to Israel. The Palestinians have said they would not extradite suspects.

Palestinian officials, requesting anonymity, said security chiefs from the two sides were in contact, a possible first step toward ending the incursions.

Arafat, meanwhile, charged that Israel was ignoring US requests. "This Israeli position is very dangerous one," Arafat said.

Israel launched its incursions last week, in response to the killing of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi by Palestinian militants. Israeli tanks have been taking up positions in six West Bank towns. In two, biblical Bethlehem and the northern town of Tulkarem, there were exchanges of fire overnight.

In Tulkarem, three Palestinians were killed early Wednesday. Palestinians said Israeli soldiers ambushed the three men from a cemetery. The Israeli military said the soldiers spotted armed Palestinians who were about to open fire, and shot them.

Also in Tulkarem, an Army bulldozer demolished the home of Raed Karni, a local militia leader accused by Israel of involvement in killing five Israelis.

Just outside Jerusalem, in the West Bank town of Abu Dis, a Palestinian was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers, doctors said. The 25-year-old was throwing firebombs at soldiers when he was shot in the face and eye with rubber-coated steel bullets, Israel Army radio reported.

Altogether, 37 Palestinians, many of them civilians, have been killed since Israel launched its incursions a week ago.

Before dawn Wednesday, Israeli tanks entered the villages of Beit Reema and Deir Ghassaneh near the town of Ramallah.

Three Apache helicopters flew over the area, shooting bullets, Palestinian witnesses said.

In Deir Ghassaneh, a Palestinian police post was shelled by an Israeli tank as it entered the village, the witnesses said.

In Beit Reema, troops took over several buildings and arrested dozens of local residents, the witnesses said. In an exchange of fire, seven Palestinians were injured, three of them critically, according to a local doctor. Palestinian officials said troops prevented ambulances from entering the villages.

The Israeli Army said troops entered Beit Reema and made arrests to stamp out a "broad infrastructure of terrorism." The Army made no reference to Deir Ghassaneh.

Also Wednesday, six Palestinian laborers were injured, one critically, when shots were fired at the car they were traveling in south of the West Bank city of Hebron, occupants of the car said. The shots were fired from a passing car that had followed them for a few kilometers, they said.

Gunfire could be heard through the night in Bethlehem, where Israeli tanks held positions a few kilometers from the Church of the Nativity, marking the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Several shots were fired from the Bethlehem area toward Gilo, a Jerusalem neighborhood built on war-won West Bank land and claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

Israeli media on Wednesday quoted defense officials as saying troops might start pulling out of the Palestinian cities in two days, to comply with US demands without appearing to cave in.

Responding to the report, Cabinet Minister Tzipi Livni, who acts as a government spokesperson, said: "Israel has no interest in staying in, except to carry out military operations."

Bush met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House on Tuesday. Later, Bush said, "I did express our concern about troops in Palestinian territory and I would hope the Israelis would move their troops as quickly as possible."

The United States is concerned that the sudden upsurge in Mideast violence could interfere with the effort to combat international terrorism by building a coalition that includes moderate Arab states. *AP*

At the Philippine Crafts Department

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Cordillera tribal artistry as showcased by the Philippine Crafts Department

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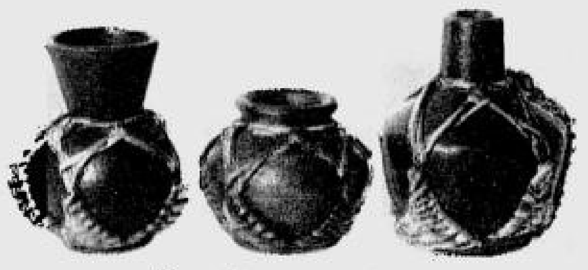

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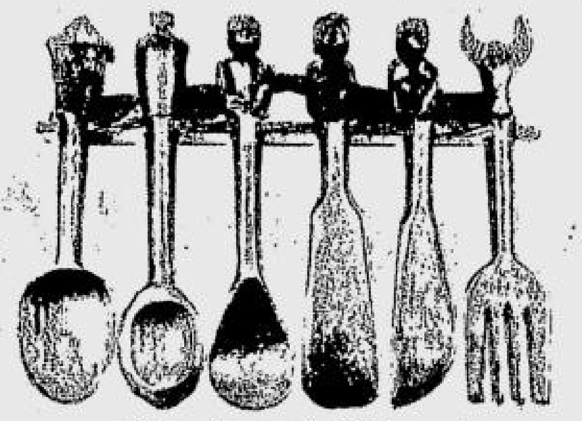

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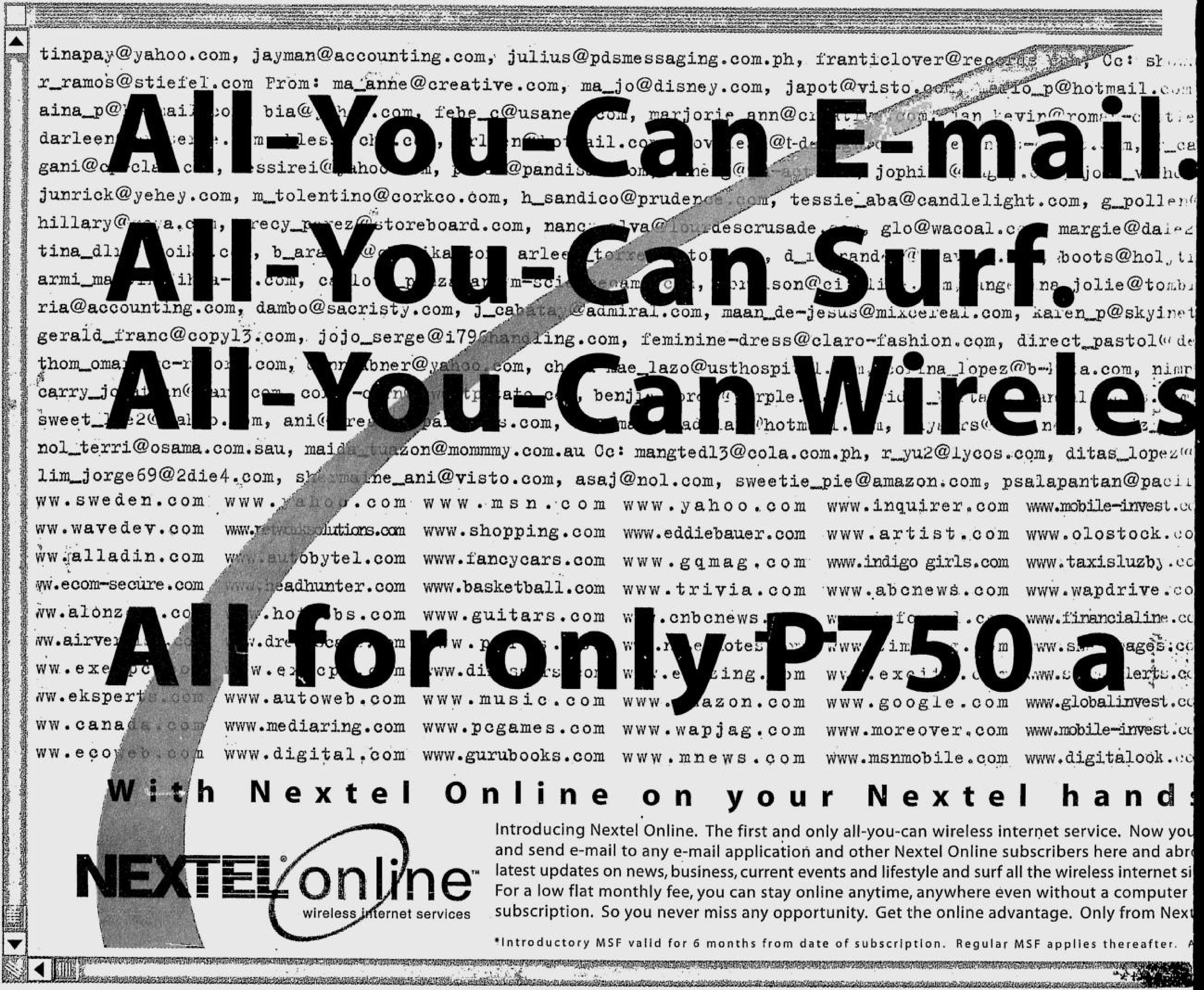

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Mars Odyssey back in orbit; Nasa jubilant

PASADENA, California—A relieved Nasa team celebrated as the 2001 Mars Odyssey successfully slipped into orbit around the Red Planet, two years after back-to-back failures by Mars missions.

The Odyssey spacecraft, operating on programmed commands, fired its engine Tuesday night to slow its speed, then arced over Mars' north pole into orbit.

"This embodies the American sprit. We showed we could win after being slammed a few times," said retiring Nasa Administrator Daniel Goldin.

Odyssey's mission to study the makeup of Mars and to search for frozen reservoirs of water faced a critical step with the first and only firing of its engine. Failure could have sent the spacecraft hurtling past the planet.

Tension mounted at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory when the expected indication—a change in a signal transmitting from the spacecraft—was not detected as expected at 7:26 p.m. A long four and a half minutes passed before the firing was confirmed.

"I was getting really worried then," project manager Matt Landano said.

Contact with Odyssey was lost as expected during a 20-minute pass behind the planet. Mission control erupted in cheers and high-fives when the signal reappeared from across 150 million km.

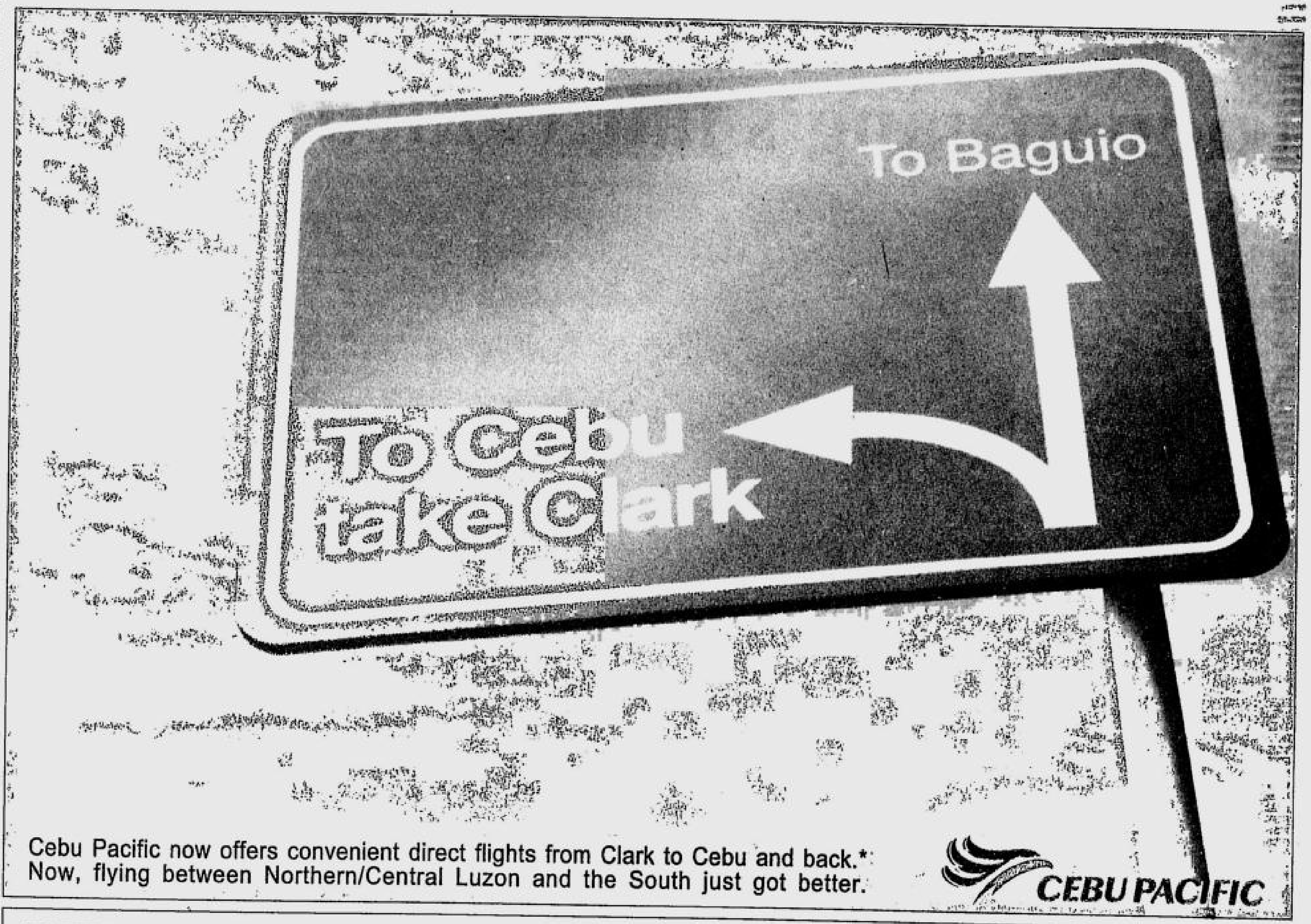
Early indications showed Odyssey was in an orbit circling Mars every 19 hours, Landano said. The spacecraft, which flew a six-month, 460-million km course to rendezvous with the Red Planet, had been targeted for an orbit of 20 hours or less.

"These guys really redeemed themselves," said Ed Weiler, Nasa's associate administrator for space science. "America needs some good news, especially now. Not many countries can do this and we showed that we could, right on the money."

Odyssey's orbit will be adjusted to a circular route 400 km above the surface through aerobraking—dipping into the atmosphere in an around-the-clock process set to begin Friday. The spacecraft should settle into a two-hour orbit in late January.

Arrival at Mars has been perilous for previous Nasa missions.

AP



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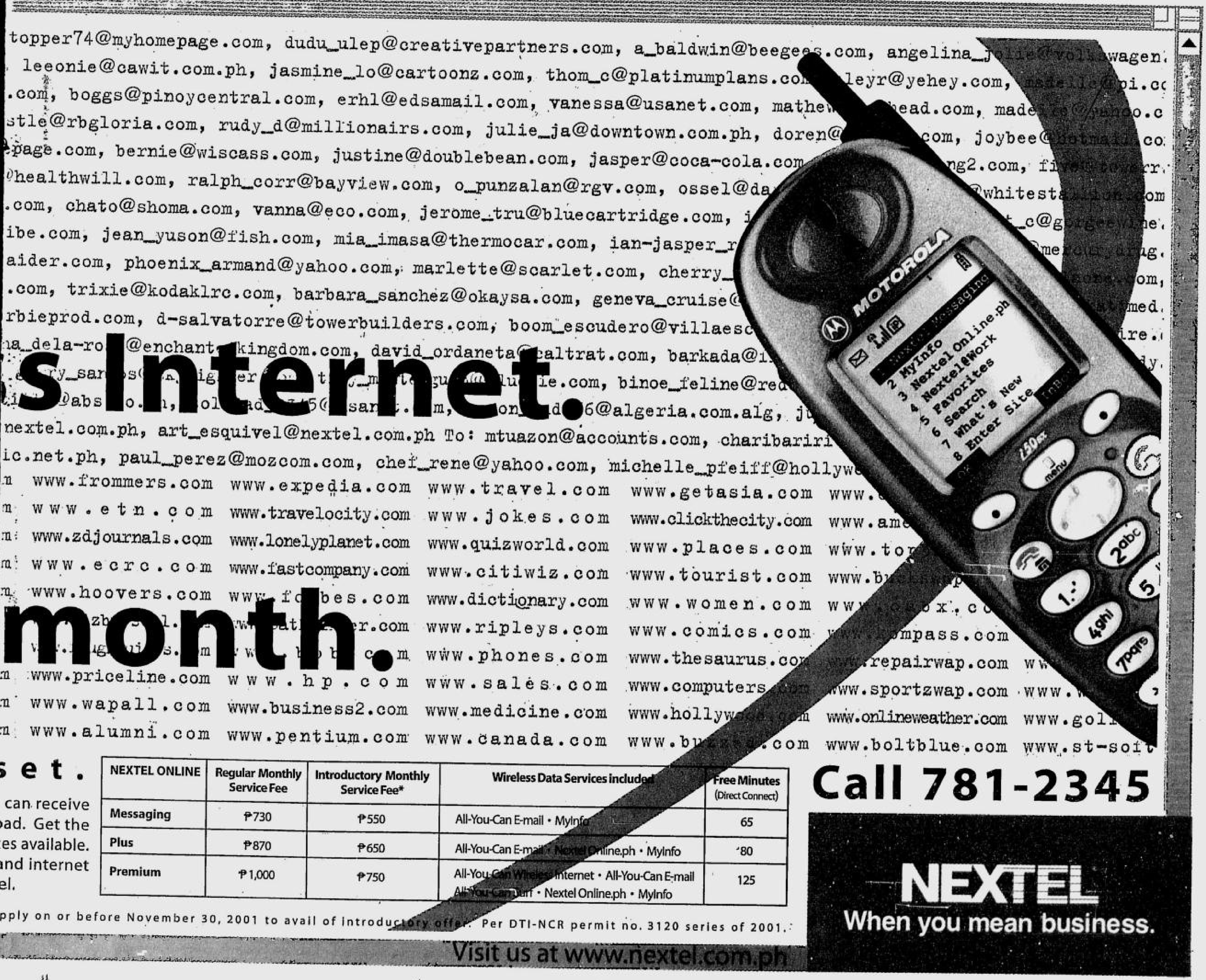

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Kidnap gang's lair raided; 1 cop dead

(From page A1)

school on Monday.

"The operatives managed to tail the kidnappers after they received ransom from Jao's family (Tuesday night)," said Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, head of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

The suspects' get-away car, a maroon Nissan Sentra with Plate No. UUS 617, was still parked outside Go's house when joint police operatives from the NCRPO, National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) and Central and Northern Police Districts stormed it.

Stand-off

It took more than five hours for more than 100 policemen to penetrate Go's residence at No. 39 General Wood St. corner Apollo Street in Barangay San Antonio.

At the end of the standoff, personally witnessed by five police generals, four suspects were handcuffed.

The raid ended in a sad note with the death of SPO4 Edmundo de Leon of the NCRPO. He was shot in the neck.

De Leon was with the first team of policemen, which tried to enter the hideout at about 7:30 a.m.

Galvante identified the arrested suspects as Ernesto Canteros, Franck Gajis, Ronnie Figueroa and Hans Anton Tan.

Three of the suspects had the tattoo of Bahala Na gang on their backs and were seen being led out of the house handcuffed and stripped of their shirts.

Notwithstanding the presence of a big number of policemen, Go managed to flee.

Galvante said Go was no longer in the area when police operatives arrived at about 5:30 a.m.

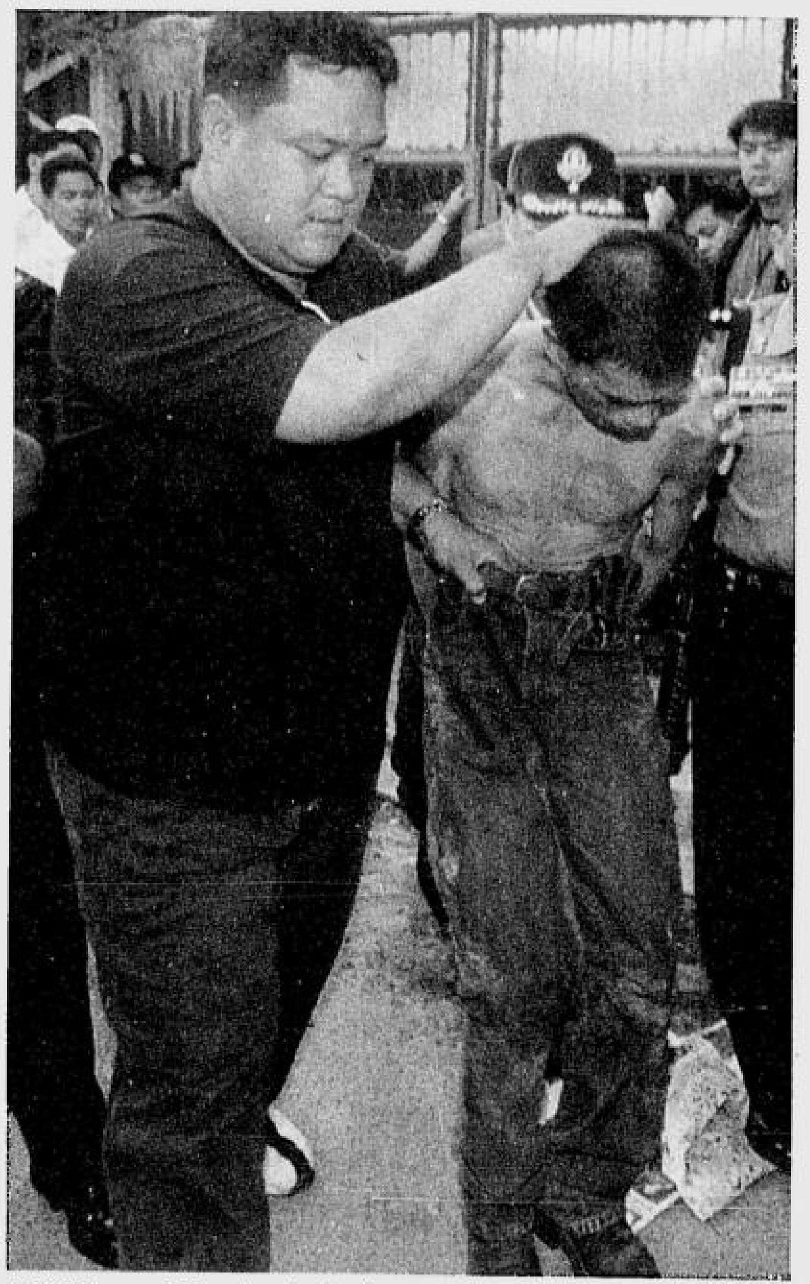
But some residents said Go was able to escape by scaling the wall of his next-door neighbor.

Inside Go's house, police found an Armalite, a .45 cal. pistol, equipment used to produce counterfeit peso bills, and bundles of fake peso bills in P500 and P1,000 denominations.

Police believed the group was also involved in counterfeiting, drug peddling and car theft.

In fact, Go was arrested two years ago for counterfeiting, according to Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, head of the Central Police District (CPD) homicide unit.

Galvante said the group could also be responsible for other kidnapping cases in Metro Manila.



A FIVE-hour raid by a hundred policemen on a kidnappers' hideout in San Francisco del Monte yielded four suspects. DENNIS SABANGAN

Jun Sta. Maria, Barangay San Antonio chair, said police had long monitored Go's house after the suspect figured in several criminal offenses, including drug peddling.

The Go family had reportedly lived in the area for almost 30 years.

Raided several times

Corazon Ramos, a neighbor of Go, said the Go residence had been raided several times.

"We don't really know them because they do not mingle with us. But we have witnessed several raids on that house," Ramos told the INQUIRER.

The night before the raid, barangay security officers noticed a group of men having a party at the Go residence, according to Sta. Maria.

Residents were jolted when they heard gunshots at about 7:30 a.m. Police were then trying to enter Go's house. The kidnappers fought off tear gas and rained automatic weapons fire on a crack police squad, fatally hitting De Leon. The police backed off.

Teams of police and SWAT members, wearing vests and armed with automatic weapons, surrounded the house and cordoned off the area from the public, taking aim from behind cars and houses and on roofs.

Ran out of bullets

A policeman used a megaphone to tell the suspects that they were surrounded. "They apparently ran out of bullets and saw the futility of fighting further so they gave up," said Chief Supt. Jose Lalisan.

At least four other gang members remained at large, according to police.

Aside from Galvante, other police generals who arrived on the scene were CPD's Rodolfo Tor, NPD's Vidal Querol, NAKTF deputy chief Jose Lalisan and NCRPO deputy chief for operations Romulo Sales.

"The operation was spearheaded by the national anti-kidnapping task force and is part of government's efforts to rid the country of kidnappers," said a spokesperson for NAKTF head, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week vowed to mount pre-emptive strikes against kidnap gangs after a rash of kidnappings.

"The best way to fight kidnap-for-ransom syndicates is to hit them even before they start working on their next victim," she said in a speech in which she also announced she would authorize the execution of up to 95 convicted kidnappers.

The President said criminals had been emboldened by her suspension of the death penalty after she took office in January.

A crime watchdog group said 202 people were abducted between January and September, including three Americans and 17 Filipinos seized by the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf in May.

More than half of the kidnappings occurred in Metro Manila, and most victims were wealthy Chinese-Filipinos. The group estimated that kidnapping gangs had collected $2.75 million in ransom. ***With reports from AFP and AP***

Kidnap gang boss ex-US serviceman

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

RAMON Go, the alleged mastermind in the kidnapping of Jennifer Jao and son Aaron, is a former US serviceman and "very athletic."

Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police deputy director general, gave this description yesterday following the arrest of Go's alleged cohorts in the house he was maintaining in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

"Go has a good physical build and is very athletic. He is also known for his proficiency in motorcycling," said Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

Ebdane said at least one witness claimed seeing Go talking to one of the suspects the night before yesterday's encounter.

Ebdane also presented a photograph of Go recovered from the scene of the crime showing him in dark uniform with a male companion. The US flag served as their background.

Ebdane said Go's gang could be part of the Esting kidnap group, one of the 49 kidnap-for-ransom groups listed in the PNP order of battle.

"We are currently updating the list right now. We have to prepare the profiles of the kidnap gang members," he said at a news conference yesterday afternoon.

Ebdane said that aside from kidnapping, Go also engaged in car theft and currency counterfeiting.

ALLEGED kidnap gang leader, Ramon Go, described as athletic, escaped by scaling a neighbor's wall. FILM GRAB

Ebdane presented copies of fake P500 and P1,000 peso bills allegedly produced by Go. It was not clear, however, whether Go succeeded in circulating these bills.

Ebdane said Go had yet to perfect his counterfeiting procedure. The faking process involved the photocopying of the peso bills using sophisticated machines.

"But you can tell that the bills are fake because the texture is rough," Ebdane noted.

Of the 49 kidnap groups, 23 remain active, according to the PNP. These include the Abu Sayyaf, the Pentagon group and a lost command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

US bombs kill civilians, pro-Taliban fighters

(From page A1)

suggested that nothing short of carpet-bombing could cause the Taliban frontline to collapse.

Still, anti-Taliban forces elsewhere were advancing—thanks to the US air strikes.

Mohammad Atta, an opposition commander, said his forces in the Dara-e-Souf valley, 70 km south of the key northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif, had mounted an offensive toward the district of Keshendeh during the night.

He said that "wave after wave" of US air attacks on enemy lines had enabled his men to win control of four villages in fighting which left between 70 and 80 Taliban militiamen dead. He would not say what the advance represented in terms of distance.

"The Americans bombed them again and again. It was very helpful for us," Atta told AFP from the frontlines.

Atta said that his men had taken 150 prisoners while two Taliban commanders and 45 of their men defected.

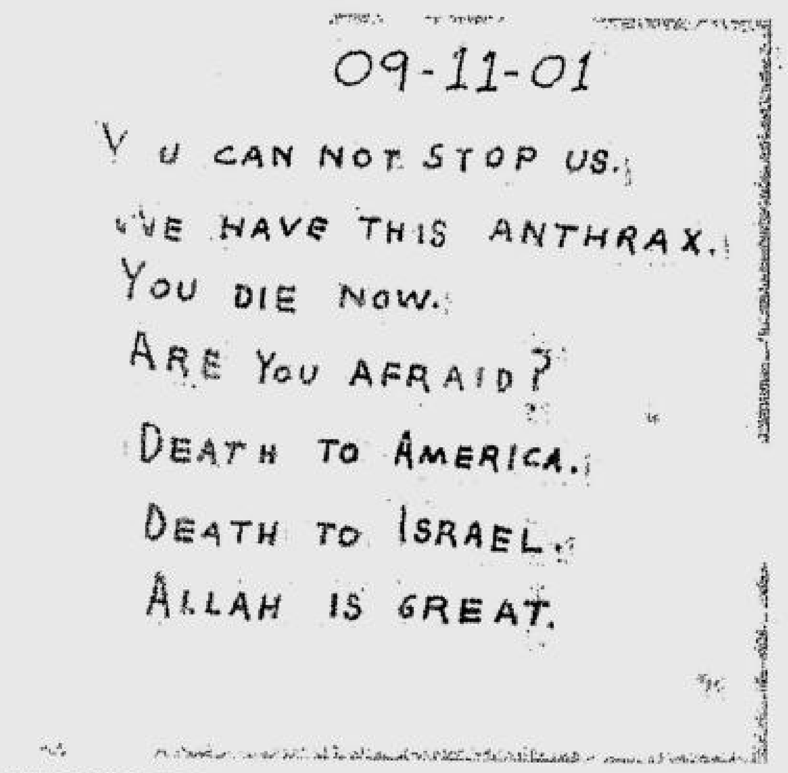
Pakistani fighters

In Karachi, a senior official of the banned Harkat ul-Mujahideen said one of Tuesday's bombs in Kabul hit a house where fighters of his group were assembled.

Muzamal Shah said 22 of the militants were killed, including several senior commanders. He said members of his group crossed into Afghanistan since the US bombing began to help the Taliban "devise a plan for fighting against America."

Harakat ul-Mujahideen, or "Movement of the Holy Warriors," is one of the largest militant organizations fighting Indian soldiers in the disputed Kashmir region. The United States declared it a terrorist organization years ago.

The Pakistan movement was among 27 groups and individuals whose assets were frozen by the United States, Pakistan and other countries after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which Washington blames on Bin Laden.



09-11-01

Y U CAN NOT STOP US.

WE HAVE THIS ANTHRAX.

YOU DIE NOW.

ARE YOU AFRAID?

DEATH TO AMERICA.

DEATH TO ISRAEL.

ALLAH IS GREAT.

ANTHRAX-LACED letter sent to the Senate Majority Leader Tom Dashcle is released by the US justice department in Washington on Tuesday. REUTERS

Civilian targets

In Washington, the Pentagon on Tuesday acknowledged that a US warplane erred and hit a residential zone outside Kabul over the weekend, while the United Nations reported that a hospital was also bombed in the western city of Herat.

The Taliban claimed that more than 100 people died in the hospital bombing and that 52 more were killed when two villages were hit overnight.

The latest Taliban reports brought its overall figure for civilian casualties to over 1,000 since the start of the US military campaign.

Washington, whose air campaign aims to topple Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia and eliminate Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, has rejected the figure.

Afghan refugees in Pakistan said at least 20 civilians, including nine children, were killed as they tried to flee the southern Afghan town of Tirin Kot as it came under attack by US warplanes.

Cheney

In a speech in Washington, Vice President Dick Cheney acknowledged there would be civilian casualties on either side in the course of the US-led war on terrorism.

"For the first time in our history, we will probably suffer more casualties here at home than our forces will overseas," Cheney said.

"We have to assume there will be more attacks. The direct attack on our nation has put us on notice that our enemy is resourceful and ruthless," he said in reference to the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 5,000 people in the United States.

But even as Cheney was warning of a protracted war, 1,000 Muslim clerics, tribal chiefs and Afghan exiles on Wednesday gathered in Peshawar, near the northwestern border with Afghanistan, for a conference on the future of post-Taliban Afghanistan.

The leading figure of the conference, Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani, a supporter of Afghanistan's ex-king Mohammed Zaher Shah and an Islamic spiritual leader, said before the meeting that Taliban moderates could play a continued role in Afghan politics as part of a more broad-based government.

"There are elements in Afghanistan who have their importance, whose role is important and cannot be ignored, irrespective of what the impression might be outside Afghanistan about their role," he said.

"They are very much a part of this society, their existence cannot be challenged."

"Every effort must be made to bring about an end to military operations and the start of reconstruction of the country as soon as possible," Gailani said in his opening speech, calling for the creation of a transitional government headed by Zahir Shah, 87, who lives in exile in Rome.

Gailani heads the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, the biggest member of a 19-party coalition that organized the meeting. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

What's up, doc? Biggest carrot cake

(From page A1)

The carrot cake, the size of which still has to be determined by the Benguet Tourism Council (BTC), will be displayed and "served" at the provincial board's session hall in La Trinidad, Benguet, on Nov. 23, the province's 101st founding anniversary.

BTC chair Mignon de Leon said the council hoped to serve carrot cake slices to a crowd bigger than the 5,000 people who partook of Baguio's biggest tossed salad.

"We have not finalized its (carrot cake) dimension but we are choosing between three shapes—carrot-shaped, rectangular or round," De Leon said.

The cake will use fresh carrots, regardless of their shapes and sizes, harvested by Benguet farmers.

Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism, said the project would push through despite the reported low carrot yield in the province.

"We have no knowledge about the shortage. The reason why we thought of the carrot was because its color is very attractive and it has so many byproducts such as candies and juices," Molintas said.

Recently the Benguet provincial board asked the Allied Botanical Corp., a distributor of carrot seedlings in the province, to explain why the carrot cropping season yielded pale, finger-sized, radish-looking roots instead of robust and dark orange roots.

Wilfredo Co, ABC chief operating officer, replied that the poor yield was not a result of the quality of their seedlings but of temperature changes in vegetable farms in the province.

He said their seedlings had been proven safe for cropping as indicated by their research.

BTC's De Leon said baking the carrot cake would highlight the province's vegetable industry. It will be one of the features of the Benguet Vegetable Festival next month.

"We still have to consult chefs from the Baguio Country Club about the design, the shape and the dimension of the cake. But if you visit the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session hall, you can just imagine how big it is," De Leon said during a press forum here on Wednesday.

She said local officials were tapping sponsors such as flour and sugar companies to take part in the activity.

De Leon said officials were hoping Benguet's carrot cake would make it to record books although they did not invite any representative from the Guinness Book of World Records to document the feat.

"One problem is how to spend for the (Guinness) representative because that will cost us more than P100,000. But as long as we can document it, we can have it entered in the Guinness Book of World Records," De Leon said.

The Guinness record for the largest cake was set in Alabama in 1989. The EarthGrains Bakery produced a cake weighing 128,238 pounds to celebrate the 100th founding anniversary of the town of Fort Payne.

The record for the biggest King's Cake was set in August 1999 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when Chartwells Educational Dining Services baked one weighing 350 pounds and measuring 182 feet in circumference. It took two weeks to bake. It fed 3,500 students of the Louisiana State University.

The biggest Christmas Log was baked in Edmonton, Alberta in Canada, in December 2000. It was a 5,505.3-pound cake and measured 72 feet in length. ***With reports from Frank Cimatu and Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Biazon: Who are these Americans?

(From page A1)

arrived in the country to serve reportedly as "coordinators" in the fight against the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

Even with Biazon's Senate resolution asking for an inquiry, the question is not likely going to be answered soon.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, has been quiet on the arrival of six American coordinators—as he prefers to call them—in Zamboanga City on Tuesday. Cimatu was also mum on the expected arrival today of 16 other Americans.

Yesterday, Col. Charlix Dolina, operations chief of the 3rd Air Wing Division, told the INQUIRER that the advance party of six coordinators had even questioned the presence of reporters inside Edwin Andrews Airbase upon their arrival.

Cimatu refused to give details of the itinerary of the US team and evaded questions on the preparations and other plans of the 16 coordinators who are expected to visit Basilan province by fast craft.

Military attachés

The media's curiosity was further aroused by the arrival yesterday in Zamboanga City of military attachés from at least 12 countries including those from the United States, France, Japan and Australia.

Again, military officials declined to give details about the visit, which appeared to have been timed with the presence of the US coordinators.

Cimatu said the visit of the foreign military attachés had nothing to do with the presence of the Americans.

"These are attachés. They visit cities and camps in our country, and as part of their social call to our country," Cimatu said.

The visit could also be a way for the attachés to promote Zamboanga City as a safe place for shopping, Cimatu said with a straight face.

Later, Cimatu admitted that the attachés met behind closed doors with local military officials at the Southcom headquarters. During the meeting, he said the foreign envoys and local military commanders shared notes and discussed the fight against global terrorism.

The military attachés who were accompanied by their wives were Group Capt. Gregory J. Sutton of Australia, Senior Col. Zhang Yuhe of China, Col. Philippe Groult of France; Colonel. Rachman of Indonesia; Col. Tatsuya Kitahara of Japan; Col. Chil Sang Hwang of Seoul, Korea; Capt. James McMillan of New Zealand; Col. Robert Tan of Singapore; Capt. Martin Stretch of the United Kingdom; Maj. Kevin Conroy, of the United States; and Lt. Col. Nguyen Van Hai of Vietnam.

The military envoys left at around 2:30 p.m. for Davao City, where they were scheduled to meet with local and military officials.

Caution

Col. Roland Detabali, the Southcom's chief for operation, admitted that his command had been cautioned against giving information on the American presence.

Despite the persistence of the reporters, Cimatu issued the usual spiel about the coordinators' mission: "They are here to assist and find ways of helping the Armed Forces of the Philippines in its capabilities to fight against terrorism."

"They would just like to find for themselves the things that they can help in terms of equipage and training for our forces," Cimatu added.

Not procurement process

But in Camp Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said not to expect equipment from the United States in exchange for "consultations."

"We should not look at this consultation, this coordination, as a procurement process," Reyes told defense reporters.

"We should not look at this as an opportunity to . . . quid pro quo or an opportunity to get something from the Americans. We can help the Americans in the same way they can help us," Reyes further said.

He echoed Cimatu's explanation on why the US team was here—to coordinate efforts against international and local terrorists.

Cimatu said the US military coordinators were also interested to find out the condition of American hostages Martin Burnham and his wife Gracia.

But he clarified that the rescue effort with the help and assistance from the foreign coordinators would not solely focus on the foreign hostages.

Conflicting statements

Biazon filed a resolution seeking a Senate inquiry into the nature and purpose of the US military personnel in the country.

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and Security, chided the "defense establishment" for not informing the public about the objectives of the US counter-terrorism team.

He said the team's arrival only fueled "unsettling speculations that could trigger mass actions because of the conflicting statements being issued by various government officials.

"The only justifiable role of these Americans should be the evaluation of the state of equipment and material of the AFP with the possibility of reactivating the 1947 Mutual Assistance Agreement which will make available to the AFP the equipment it lacks such as helicopters, fast patrol boats and night vision devices," he said.

Biazon underscored that the American officers "should only be involved in providing technical advice relative to the use of these equipment."

"Direct or indirect involvement in the conduct of operations against the Abu Sayyaf or other rebel groups will definitely not be acceptable," the former AFP chief of staff said. ***With a report from Martin Marfil***

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001 A13

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Across the NATION
TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

PNP chief: Kidnap stats inaccurate

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Philippine National Police Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza described as "not accurate" the reports that there were more kidnap-for-ransom cases in the last nine months this year than in the entire 2000.

"(The) truth is, there are only more cases reported this year than last year. Stated differently, people were more afraid to report last year than this year. This is validated by the fact that 70 percent of the victims now want the help of the police," Mendoza said here Tuesday.

Mendoza, a former Pangasinan police director, was here Tuesday during a special session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan that passed a resolution adopting him as a "son of Pangasinan."

He said the kidnap-for-ransom crime solution efficiency this year is "very much higher" at 60 percent.

"In La Union, the kidnapping of a Chinese-Filipino girl was solved in only eight days," he noted.

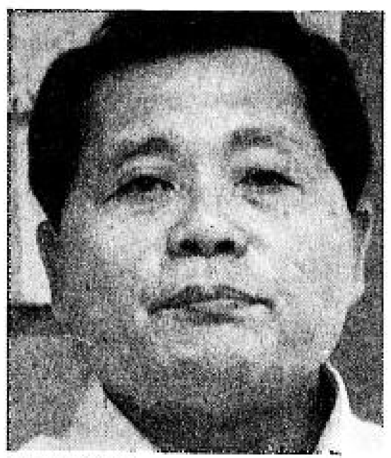
Mendoza said the kidnapping of Jacqui Rowena Tiu in San Fernando City, La Union, in September was solved in eight days because of the "active cooperation of the victim and her family with the police."

Mendoza also said the average monthly crime volume in the country has dropped by 13.45 percent, from 9.51 cases to 8.23 cases per 100,000 population.

He said he was optimistic that the kidnapping of Dagupan City businessman Charlie Ngo on Sept. 27 will be solved "in the next few hours or days."

"In a few hours or few days, we will announce the result (of the operation)," Mendoza said.

However, the local police have not confirmed the kidnapping incident because Ngo's family has consistently denied that Ngo, one of the owners of the Star Plaza Hotel in Dagupan, was indeed kidnapped.



MENDOZA

The rash of kidnappings came in the wake of accusations that top officials of the PNP, including then PNP chief now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, are involved in organized crime.

Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a police asset turned witness against Lacson, had testified in the Senate that the group of Lacson, officers of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, had ordered the abduction of suspected drug traffickers.

These traffickers were forced to pay for their release, but some had been killed after payment of ransom.

Ong also testified that the shabu being seized by the police officers under Lacson then were being resold in the market.

Income from these illegal activities were laundered allegedly by Lacson in various bank accounts in the United States.

Lacson had denied these allegations. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cash-strapped PMA to raise funds for budget

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Military Academy is launching a privately managed trust fund on Saturday, its 103rd founding anniversary, to cushion its cadets and its staff from the country's looming P145-billion budget deficit by yearend.

A massive budgetary cutback by the Armed Forces of the Philippines for next year could already justify a retrenchment option for the institution's teaching force.

Maj. Michael Morales, head of the PMA's information technology program, said PMA stands to lose 30 of its professors by 2009, unless Congress sponsors a measure protecting the PMA from the military's streamlining and cost-cutting programs.

The PMA Development Trust Fund Inc. (PMA Trust) was patterned after existing foundations utilized by universities and colleges to obtain grants and donations from independent financial sources.

But unlike most universities, PMA still functions as an attached agency of the Department of National Defense, and would require a unique financial mechanism, such as the PMA Trust, that would allow PMA some "flexibility" in managing its resources, a PMA press statement said.

Col. Arsenio Arugay, PMA chief of academic staffs, said the nature of PMA Trust could already address the budgetary issues affecting the PMA Corps of Professors, although its primary function is to finance a long-delayed infrastructure buildup necessary to upgrade PMA.

Arugay said PMA Trust will be run by a 15-man Board of Trustees which will provide "continuing policy direction" and will control a special asset pool trust account for PMA's infrastructure and expansion programs that the government had been unable to finance.

The board's make-up will involve top corporate officials, as well as PMA alumni, to broaden the financial environment that PMA intends to tap for support.

An intermediary board will be presided over by Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra, PMA superintendent, Arugay said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to witness the ceremonial launch of the Trust Fund group during PMA's 103rd anniversary celebration on Saturday.

"Although we have many non-government organizations supporting the PMA, including several foundations, the trust fund group would sustain the operational and logistical deficits we face today," Arugay said.

Among the PMA's chief donors is the PMA Alumni Association Inc., which contribute about 12 percent to PMA's seasonal infrastructure budgets.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pageant draws tight security

KALIBO, Aklan—About 80 policemen provided security for the 19 contestants of the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest 2001 who were on Boracay Island for three days to shoot portions of the swimsuit competition.

Supt. Edgardo Mendoza, Aklan police director, said bomb disposal experts were also part of the security team for the visiting beauties.

The contestants arrived at the Kalibo airport Wednesday morning. The ladies were from the Philippines, Australia, Columbia, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Peru, Ukraine, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

They proceeded to the nearby Balete town to grace the fiesta celebration headed by Aklan Rep. Gabrielle V. Calizo.

The group then went to the world-famous Boracay Island to take pictures and videos needed in the swimsuit competition.

Today, the lovely ladies will be busy posing for pictures in their swim wear in the different areas of the seven-kilometer white beach.

They are also scheduled to have lunch with President Macapagal-Arroyo who will be in Boracay today to inaugurate the P375 million worth Boracay Service Infrastructure Project.

The group is scheduled to depart for Manila today via the Dumaguit Port.

Calizo and Aklan Gov. Florencio expressed joy that Boracay was one of the places visited by the contestants. They said their presence in Boracay will send out a message that the island is still a safe and peaceful haven for tourists.

The search for the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest 2001 will be on Nov. 10. It will be telecast live over GMA-7. The pictures and videos taken in Boracay will be shown during the program.

Odon S. Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

To countryside development, keep left
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DBP Sorsogon has moved to a more accessible site at the corner of Rizal and Burgos Streets. This more convenient location puts DBP in a better position to serve its growing clientele in a province blessed by abundant natural resources--with abaca as one of the area's primary exports.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/25/01

ROUNDUP

NPA slain in Cavite

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A suspected New People's Army leader was killed and two female rebels were captured in an encounter early yesterday morning in Barangay Pacheco, Magallanes, Cavite. In a report, Col. Efren Orbon, 1st Infantry Battalion commanding officer, identified the casualty as Ka Jerick. The report said government forces, which also included operatives from the 402nd Military Intelligence Group 4 and the SWAT team from the Magallanes police, encountered more than 30 NPA rebels in the vicinity of Sitio Imus, Barangay Pacheco.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Displaced families complain

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—About 966 peasant families who were displaced by the militarization in Laguna, Quezon, Batangas and Mindoro set up a camp on Monday in front of the Commission on Human Rights office in Manila. Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary general Eden Marcellana said the families started leaving their farms when the Task Force Banahaw began intensive operations in these provinces. Marcellana said her group has documented 17 cases of evacuations, which involved 966 families.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

12 illegal fishers charged

BATANGAS CITY—Police filed illegal fishing charges against 12 suspected fishermen from Balayan town who were intercepted last week on board a fishing boat loaded with assorted dynamited fish off the coastline of Calatagan, Batangas. Supt. Rolando Lorenzo, Batangas police director, said the suspects' motorboat came from the direction of South China Sea where illegal fishers, mostly from Palawan province, thrive. The local police confirmed in their report to Lorenzo that the confiscated fish composed of *tanguigue* and *muslo* were dynamited.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Finish probe, Enverga urges

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga urged government investigators to immediately conclude their inquiry into illegal drugs to spare innocent politicians from being suspected as cohorts of the drug syndicate. Enverga said the earlier statement of a higher police official in the region that politicians were involved, have cast a shadow of doubt on every politician. "The general statement is unfair for politicians who are innocent," he said. A number of politicians in Quezon have been the subject of negative commentaries by reporters banking on the allegations of the police.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Jail warden sacked

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Misamis Oriental governor Antonio Calingin sacked acting provincial jail warden Felicisimo Lim and appointed Fabio Turno Jr. after two inmates escaped on Friday. Turno Jr. is the administrative officer of the Provincial Engineers Office. On Friday, Don Concepcion, who was jailed for a number of murder charges and Akil Ampaso, who is facing kidnapping charges, escaped.

Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MILF rebels surrender

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least two commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front here surrendered on Tuesday to Supt. Ireneo Dordas, chief of the Traffic Management Group in Central Mindanao. Dordas said Solaiman Dimaudtang Macmod and Johnny Katil Basag also turned over 26 assorted firearms including rocket-propelled grenade launchers and assorted handguns. Macmod was commander of the MILF's 103rd Brigade operating in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao while Johnny was a Battalion commander.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROTC cadet beaten up

ILOILO CITY—A 19-year-old cadet lost consciousness after a trainer of the Reserved Officer Training Corps beat him up inside the ROTC office of the University of Iloilo (UI). Vladimir Laloy, UI sophomore student, was brought to the West Visayas Medical Center where he was still under observation. Maj. John Tarrosa, UI ROTC unit commander, said Laloy was hit in the jaw and punched in the stomach by T/Sgt. Ildefonso Guillergan, UI ROTC administrative non-commissioned officer. Guillergan reportedly admonished Laloy, a 3rd class cadet, for failing to submit documents required in the ROTC.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Pa kills 2 kids

BACOLOD CITY—A jobless construction worker of Barangay Punta here tried to commit suicide after killing his two children. Von Arsenio Artieda, 24, who got depressed after his wife left him and their children, was still fighting for his life at a hospital here. Artieda slit the throats of his son Vonjovel, 5, and daughter Maria Ivony, 4, before slashing his own neck with a knife. His wife, Maribele Juarez Artieda, 22, left their home Saturday after a fight with her husband allegedly over his failure to buy her a cellular phone, Arsenio's family claimed.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Armed men attack tribal village, send Manobos fleeing for safety

DON CARLOS, Bukidnon—Unidentified armed men on Thursday assaulted anew a Manobo community whose two members were killed in an early morning ambush here recently.

This time, the suspects fired several rounds of M-79 grenade launchers in broad daylight before they razed 32 *lumad* houses.

No one was reported hurt as the Manobos had already evacuated along the national highway.

The attack on Thursday came even as the Department of National Defense had already issued a memorandum to the armed forces' chief of staff two days earlier. The order, a copy of which was shown by the *lumad* organization to the INQUIRER, directed the military in Cagayan de Oro City "to take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the Manobo community and the neutralization of the alleged armed group terrorizing them."

The latest incident is part of a "continuing wave of assault" after the *lumads* started asserting ancestral land claims over an area now planted with sugar cane, said Datu Marcial Tahuyan who heads the San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers Association.

This developed as the Diocese of Malaybalay under Bishop Honesto Pacana kept under its protection three witnesses to the ambush slaying of two Manobo tribe members on Oct. 13. The victims, SLBNFA board member Ananias Tahuyan and Rodolfo Dazing, were on their way to their community center to finalize a global positioning system survey of their land claim when killed.

Dazing died on the spot with a bullet wound on his forehead. Tahuyan, although hit in the thigh and arms, managed to run away. But his assailants chased and finished him off with a shotgun.

The suspects took off their masks while on their way out of the crime scene and were seen by the witnesses who hid after the initial gunbursts.

Still, *lumad* leader Datu Winefredo Sumael is not expecting a quick resolution of the string of atrocities against the indigenous peoples here. He cited the more than 20 unsolved killings among members of the Nagkahiusang Tingog sa mga Mag-uumang Manobo sa Mulita Association (Nagtimmma) in recent years that have remained unsolved to date.

Nagkahiusang Kahugpungan sa mga Manobo og Talaindig (Nakamata), a coalition of 10 indigenous peoples' organizations in South-Central Bukidnon, is in the forefront of the recovery of ancestral domain claims. The coalition is a partner of Witness, a New York-based organization that arms activists and organizations with cameras for human rights advocacy work.

Nagtimmma and SLBNFA are claiming a government-sequesterel area as their own. The area was used by Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco for coconut, cacao and rubber plantations during the martial law era.

The area is now planted mainly with sugar cane. Some local municipal officials and members of the police and military, reportedly in connivance with the Departments of Agrarian Reform and the Environment and Natural Resources, allegedly had claimed parcels of the area their own.

Datu Sumael, who is also Nakamata chair, further cited the unabated assault against its members since last month:

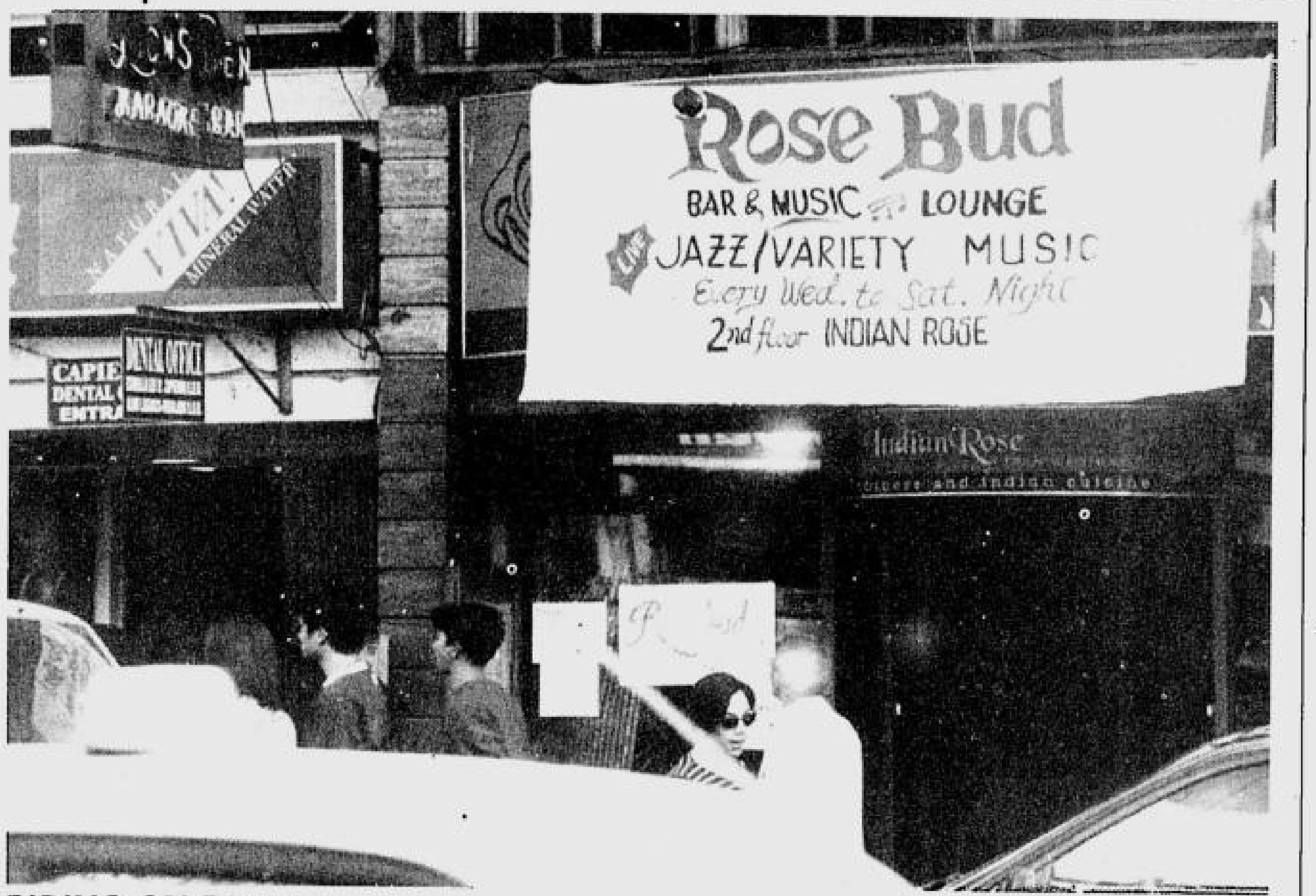
- Samuel Bento, chair of the Tribal Organization of San Jose, was killed inside a passenger jeep on Sept. 6.; and Datu Marcial Tahuyan's house was strafed on Sept. 27, leaving Virgie Tahuyan and a young girl wounded.
- Ananias Tahuyan, a witness to the strafing and husband of Virgie, was killed together with Dazing in the Oct. 13 ambush. This was followed by the burning of 32 Manobo houses.

All these remained unacted upon, Datu Sumael said, in spite of pleas for local authorities and the letters of concern sent by support groups to President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials.

Col. Renato David, commander of the 8th Infantry Battalion based in Bukidnon, said Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, 4th Infantry Division chief, on Friday ordered that security be given to the *lumads*.

"But after we received the order and were already in the area, the people that we were supposed to secure were no longer there," David said.

He said what his men saw were 30 burned shanties. *Joey RB Lozano with a report from Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



RIDING ON FAME

TOOTS SOBERANO

A bar on Session Road in Baguio City appears to be riding on the popularity of ex-anti-drug agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong as it adopts the now famous witness' name to attract customers.

Widow asks Army to fulfill promise

SADANGA, Mt. Province—The widow of the farmer who was killed in a fire fight between suspected communist rebels and government soldiers asked the military to fulfill its promise in providing their sons scholarships and pay them P115,000 for the wrongful death of her husband.

"The military told us that they are going to pay us after 45 days when they talked to us on Oct. 2. They never apologized for what they did (to my husband). We are okay but I can never forget what they did to my husband," Elisa Camareg, widow of Johnny Camareg, said.

Lt. Col. Juanito Dalmas, commanding officer of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion based in Lagangilang, Abra, said the money was a form of "financial assistance" and not settlement for the "wrongful death" of Camareg, as many of his fellow tribesmen here claimed.

Relatives of Camareg said the agreement was settled "verbally" and that there was no document signed to formally settle the agreement.

Military reports said Camareg was shot and killed on Aug. 9 after an encounter with the New People's Army.

The military searched the area after the encounter and found a rifle supposedly owned by Camareg. His body was found two days later, on Aug. 11, and covered with leaves.

But the Provincial Peace and Order Council of Mt. Province, in its findings, said there was no encounter as the military alleged. It said Camareg's body was dragged five meters from where he died and dumped near the Ellay Creek in Sitio Potakag in Barangay Anabel in Sadanga.

The residents found Camareg's body by tracking the traces of blood and disturbed bushes and grasses. Abrasions and contusions were found on Camareg's left face and left side of the body.

Gov. Sario Malinias said they would have filed a murder case against the government soldiers involved in Camareg's death had the military not offered an amicable settlement with the family.

Malinias said the soldier who shot Camareg did not admit that he mistook Camareg for an NPA rebel.

"It was the higher command of the Army's Special Forces who apologized, but the ones who did it refused to apologize to the family because they said they were defending their service," Malinias told the INQUIRER.

Elisa said her husband was not an NPA rebel. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Vigilantes strike again, kill teener

DAVAO CITY—Motorcycle-riding gunmen struck again, this time killing a 17-year-old robbery suspect who was shot while playing card games along R. Castillo Street here on Tuesday night.

Bernie Mahusay was the 15th person shot and killed since the so-called Davao Death Squad started its killing spree on Sept. 20.

Mahusay suffered multiple bullet wounds in the head and body.

The shooting occurred just as the city council approved a resolution demanding an investigation on the series of killings by the Commission on Human Rights, the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Councilor Angela Librado, who authored the resolution, said the council's job was essentially to make laws but the people "are asking that we should look into it."

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, on Monday vowed to relieve police station commanders who fail to stop vigilante killings in their respective areas.

Yesterday, Matillano could not be reached for comment if he had ordered the relief of the police station commander with jurisdiction on R. Castillo Street.

Sta. Ana police station head Chief Insp. Fe Basan, whose area of responsibility covers the place where the latest victim was gunned down, said there was no reason for her to be relieved since the killing was not drug-related.

But Basan said her office is still investigating the killing to identify the suspects.

The CHR here earlier said the city was becoming the country's summary execution capital. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Auditors write to GMA to solve colleague's slay

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Still shocked over the murder of their colleague, government auditors in the Ilocos region appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for a "resolute action" on the murder of Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr.

In a letter sent to Ms Macapagal, the 30-member Philippine Government Audit Service Employees Association-Ilocos said the brains behind Chan's murder should be given the "punishment they deserve."

The auditors said like Chan and others who suffered the same fate, they also face the same risks in the performance of their jobs.

They said with Chan's murder, "fear" has gripped them.

"This fear will be like a sword hanging over us for as long as the case remains unsolved," they said.

They said they are praying for Ms Macapagal's continued support for the cause and welfare of state auditors, not only in the Ilocos region but also in the country.

Chan and his driver Alex Racacho were killed after they were ambushed along the national highway in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, on Oct. 4.

Supt. Fidel Cimatu, Ilocos Sur police director, said they have identified suspects who were "possibly aggrieved" by Chan's audit report on transactions made by the Ilocos Sur provincial government.

Cimatu, however, declined to reveal the identities of these suspects. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ver mother dies in Ilocos Norte

SARRAT, Ilocos Norte—"She went through life's hardships with poise and dignity. She wanted to prove that she can raise her son into a somebody."

This was how Aida Ver described her 100-year-old mother-in-law Doña Elena Jamias Ver, mother of the late Gen. Fabian Ver, who died quietly on Friday in their ancestral house here.

Aida, 79, told the INQUIRER that she admired the Ver matriarch who sent her and General Ver, one of the country's most feared generals during martial law, back to school after they got married.

Aida and General Ver, who died in 1998, did not finish college following World War II.

Aida graduated Bachelor of Scienee in Education while her husband finished law but failed to take the bar exam because, as a soldier, he was assigned to different places.

"They (Gen. Ver and Doña Elena) were very close. She laid the foundation for his son's education," Aida said. "Maybe she had her own bitterness, loneliness, emptiness or embarrassment but she was quiet. She could endure, the pain." *Kira Espino with a report from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio execs' new phones elicit angry messages

BAGUIO CITY—Cruel text messages have deluged the expensive Nokia 8890 cellular phones issued to government officials here after ethical issues were raised in public about their purchase, Mayor Bernardo Vergara told reporters here on Monday.

The calls and text messages are unending streams of curses and criticisms of Baguio's public policies, Vergara said. "Many of my officials even want to return their cell phones," he said.

Fifty-one mobile phones, each worth P25,000, were bought in September to replace old government-issued cellular phones, as part of "a mandatory upgrading scheme for the city government's equipment."

But the total purchase cost of P1.275 million drew public anger because of its timing.

Editors of weekly newspapers here described the allocations as "gross insensitivity" to the economic crisis plaguing the country after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States caused global markets to crash.

Several phones were issued to 24 top Baguio government officials—from the mayor down to his department heads, their assistants and city councilors.

To contain the backlash, the city's public information office (PIO) released in a public statement the corresponding numbers of these officials on the first week of October.

But last weekend, the PIO issued another press statement appealing for "text messages (or calls of) purely legitimate business transactions that already require managerial attention."

"We made available these cellular phone numbers to be of help to the public. But to be bombarded (by) these prank calls and text messages is not helpful to the officials' performance of their (duties)," the statement said.

Several text messages sent to Baguio government executives were admonitions about the phone purchase.

A text message read: "BAKT BLI KYO 8890 HIRAP MUNDO (Why are you buying 8890? The world is suffering)."

Another message described how the sender felt about the city's "adventurism, when it involved public money," a city official told the INQUIRER.

Romeo Concio, general services department head of the city government, pointed out that the cellular phones were priced far lower than the bid offers of P27,000 from Smart Communications and Globe Telecom.

"This was pushed to the mayor by the city's finance committee and all we did was to buy them upon instructions (from Mayor Vergara). We had to canvass in Metro Manila for a cheaper price and that is why the phones are worth P25,000 each," Concio said.

Vergara denied that the recent "prank calls" were dominated by "protest messages" about the controversial cell phone purchases.

"(Baguio prosecutor Erdolfo) Balajadia asked me to appeal to the media on behalf of the city to ask people not to use these cell phones to curse us… For some (city officials), the calls do not end. Let us be candid about our problems. The calls should deal with real issues," Vergara said.

Vergara himself denied receiving such messages, saying that he never used his 8890 cellular phone.

"I have three cell phones. One Smart, one Globe (and the 8890). Because when you go to Manila, there are areas where you can use Smart and areas when you can use Globe. I haven't used the (8890 model) yet, because I am more comfortable with my older phones," he said.

It was Vergara's 8890 number that the city's PIO released in a public statement and not the numbers of his two other phones. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Berroya: Lacson behind coup plot

(From page A1)

Lacson was "desperate to destabilize the administration from within to (deflect) attention from his criminal activities."

From a number of interviews, members of the intelligence community and the opposition appear to be discussing at least two supposed destabilization plots.

One, called "Holy Brother," purportedly involves a charismatic religious leader who will supposedly provide the required "people power."

The other—which, according to the opposition, is a plan by pro-administration officials—is the so-called Black October.

An "intelligence report," copies of which circulated in Camp Crame as early as last week, points to disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada as a main plotter.

The three-page document alleged that Estrada and his advisers were planning to return to power by staging protest rallies during the whole month of October.

The El Shaddai group led by Estrada's spiritual adviser, Bro. Mike Velarde, will supposedly provide the required attendance at the rallies to be staged in front of the Sandiganbayan, where the deposed President is being tried for plunder, and other gatherings around Metro Manila.

In particular, according to a ranking police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity, a planned El Shaddai meeting that will take place at the Rizal Park supposedly on Oct. 30 will be monitored.

Details of Black October were allegedly ironed out in a meeting among Estrada's closest advisers on Oct. 2 at the El Shaddai main office on Amorsolo Street in Makati City.

A certain Brother Vargas allegedly presided over the meeting. Velarde was reportedly in the United States at that time.

The anonymous report said Velarde's son Franklin had been assigned to meet the food requirements of the Estrada supporters who would join the rallies.

Lacson was alleged to have provided a P3-million budget for this purpose.

But the report also said Lacson was planning to break away from Estrada.

It said Lacson's supporters had a "falling out" with Estrada advisers Lito Banayo and Jesus Crispin Remulla over the purported misappropriation of the allowances earmarked for those who joined the rallies around the Edsa Shrine at the height of the so-called "Edsa Tres."

The report also quoted Velarde as saying he would be willing to join Lacson if the senator gave him $5 million.

'Ridiculous'

Remulla had earlier said that Berroya stood to gain from Black October because its aim of installing a civilian-military junta would catapult him as the next PNP chief.

Berroya said Remulla's claim was "ridiculous."

"Why would he blame it on me when it is he and Lacson who are plotting against the administration?" Berroya said.

At a press conference yesterday in Manila, Remulla said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would benefit the most from supposed coup plot.

"He's going to be the biggest beneficiary, but I'm not saying that he's going to grab power," Remulla said,

As an example of a possible "benefit" for Reyes, Remulla cited the supposedly anomalous Lockheed deal, which Reyes recommended as Armed Forces chief of staff under Estrada and approved as defense secretary.

The case will be forgotten because of the supposed coup plot, Remulla said.

"On a personal note, I'm asking (Reyes) to resign so that there will be peace (and we can) go ahead and choose a better person to run the country," Remulla added.

Reyes told reporters that he did not want to dignify the coup rumors with a comment. But he said the military was ready for any eventuality.

On the Lockheed deal, defense department spokesperson Ros Manlangit said: "It is being hyped as a one-time issue against the secretary for lack of any issue against him. Even in the Commission on Appointments, the issue was not raised."

Manlangit also said the deal had not been approved for implementation because the documents were still with the National Economic Development Authority, which gives the final recommendation for the President's approval.

'Edsa 4'

Berroya did not elaborate on the supposed "Edsa 4" plan apart from saying that it was uncovered through "intelligence activities."

He said the recent spate of kidnappings and big-time robberies were "integral to the scheme to undermine the administration."

He said it also included a smear campaign against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Sen. Rene Cayetano, military officials and police officers like himself.

The purported destabilization campaign will also serve to save Estrada from a plunder conviction, Berroya said.

But in a press statement, the PMP again linked Berroya to Black October.

It said the plot would involve a series of high-profile bank robberies, kidnappings, political killings and bombings that would later be blamed on the opposition.

The coup will then be launched and Berroya will emerge as the new "savior" of democracy, the PMP said.

But Berroya—who, as a lieutenant colonel in the Constabulary, led a coup attempt against the Aquino administration in 1986 by taking over the Central Luzon police headquarters in Camp Olivas—said grabbing power was now the "farthest thing" from his mind.

"I would not venture into adventurism again. *Kawawa naman ang bayan* (The country will suffer)," he said.

Berroya, a 1969 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, also said he had "no capacity" to mount a coup.

"And there's no basis for it because (President Macapagal-Arroyo) enjoys the full support of the people. There is no issue to raise against the administration," he said.

He stressed several times that he was "not eyeing the top PNP post," and said his priority was to "help preserve the stability of the administration."

Disinformation

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said the new coup rumors were "part of an obvious disinformation effort designed to sow confusion, intrigue and disunity within the police and military institutions."

"Such rumors only serve the purpose of those who propagate them, almost always to advance self-serving motives and devious agenda," Mendoza said in a statement.

Mendoza also said he had ordered the PNP Command Group, its directorial staff and all regional offices to "reactivate counter-measures to deal with (the) disinformation, and to take necessary action against those behind it."

He said "the 113,000-strong officers, men and women of the (PNP) under my leadership remain steadfast and united behind the Constitution, the duly constituted government and the chain of command under the commander in chief, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane expressed interest in investigating those behind the coup rumors.

"It's probably better to dig deeper and find out which is true," he said during a news conference yesterday.

Late last week, Ebdane himself downplayed reports about Black October amid the heightened security around Malacañang when the President left for Shanghai.

'Urban Poor Liberation Front' watched

By Martin P. Marfil

AUTHORITIES are monitoring the activities of an obscure armed group that may be plotting against President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

Golez said the 50-member group calling itself the Urban Poor Liberation Front received "paramilitary training" about two months ago from an Army colonel "who may be a little confused about his loyalties to the Constitution and to the commander in chief."

He said the group first appeared during the indictment of ex-President Joseph Estrada on Oct. 1.

"It's possible that there are some groups making moves (against the government) so we are not taking any chances. An example is the Urban Poor Liberation Front," he said.

Golez said authorities spoke with the colonel after he trained the group near a watershed in Angat, Bulacan.

But he sought to downplay the incident, saying: "These are just very, very small groups that could not even muster 100 members," adding that no arrest had been made.

Golez also said that the group stopped training "after failing to muster enough numbers," and that the colonel remained in military service.

But he warned: "If he continues in his disoriented ways, he will face sanctions." *With an AFP report*

BIAZON

REMULLA

Biazon: 'Desperate elements' from opposition behind rumors

By Cynthia D. Balana

A COUP plot will not succeed now because the situation lacks the factors that led to Edsa I or II, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

At a press conference yesterday, Biazon said the new coup rumors were "the handiwork of desperate elements . . . identified with the political opposition."

He noted that talks of a supposed coup plot were started by Partido ng Masa spokesperson Crispin Remulla, and said the PMP should "clarify" this.

He stressed that Remulla did not represent the entire opposition, not even his own party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. "Should there be any attempt to mount a coup against the government, I will be among those to resist such an exercise," Biazon said, adding:

"We need this like we need a hole in the head. I am certain that the (military and police) are not receptive to such a move being stirred by a few disgruntled and desperate elements."

Biazon also said the coup rumors were resulting in "unnecessary jitters" among the public.

"I don't see the (military) . . . mounting a coup because it is bereft of the factors that made Edsa I and Edsa II very successful," he said.

One of these factors, he said, was the series of street demonstrations against the failure of the 1986 snap election for Edsa I and against the failure of then President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial last January for Edsa II.

In a statement, Biazon assailed the People's Consultative Assembly for "coming up with an ultimatum" for the administration to comply with.

"This only breeds destabilizing speculations" including supposed coup plots, he said, referring to the PCA's 30-day deadline for the administration to shape up.

He said "disgruntled elements" would just "feed on" these speculations, "and one of them is Remulla."

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, on the other hand, said there could be no truth to the coup rumors because never in Philippine history had a power grab led by the military or police succeeded.

"Besides, the best antidote to coup rumors is good governance," said Honasan, who had mounted a series of failed coup attempts against the administration of President Corazon Aquino. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

YOU leader detained in Crame for coup talk

(From page A1)

Lantion said Cardeño was not under detention but did not explain why he was still at Camp Crame, more than 11 hours after he submitted himself for questioning.

Cardeño, who is a special assistant to retired general Edgardo Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office, called up the INQUIRER at around 10:30 last night and asked why he was being held at the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the PNP.

He said that President Macapagal-Arroyo called him up yesterday morning and asked him about his alleged participation in the rumors about coup plans against the government. Cardeño said he denied any involvement in the rumors.

He said Ms Macapagal asked him if he was willing to submit himself for questioning. He said he agreed. He said he went to Camp Crame at lunch time yesterday but has not been released as of 11 p.m. last night.

Cardeño said that the President's call was coursed through Abenina, former chief peace negotiator of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) before the phone was given to Cardeño.

Abenina was reported to have been relieved as chief of the LTO a few days ago. The LTO chief, who is scheduled to hold a press conference tomorrow, confirmed that Ms Macapagal talked to Cardeño yesterday on his phone.

Tip on power-grabbers

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez received a "tip" a month ago about the supposed destabilization plot that purportedly includes the creation of "civil commotion" and the possible assassination of certain members of the Cabinet—and informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about it.

Perez, chair of the National Anti-Crime Commission, said that the President called an executive session of the Cabinet on Tuesday to discuss the new coup rumors, and that the administration had put up measures to protect the government against "power-grabbers."

"Of course, even if these are just rumors we cannot just shrug them off," Perez said yesterday in an interview at the House prior to the deliberations on the budget of the Department of Justice.

He said he also received separate reports from military and police sources about the alleged plot.

"We've heard of these rumors but so far, we have not seen anything to confirm (their) validity," he said. "Just a tip from others that there would be disturbance, but what I heard is that it will not be a traditional coup but destabilization and civil commotion."

Asked whether the political opposition could be behind the supposed plot, Perez said: "I really don't know who are behind these rumors."

Asked whether the military was behind it, he said: "It's possible. There's that possibility, although (Defense) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes is on top of the situation."

Malacañang has maintained that the persistent talks of a coup plot were nothing more than rumors. Still, Task Force Libra, whose mission is to thwart attempts at a power grab, remains ready to be mobilized at a moment's notice.

"There is no need to disband it," Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters in response to the question why the administration continued to maintain the elite military unit despite Malacañang's repeated disavowals of coup threats.

"We always have these units," he said. "These are part and parcel of the Armed Forces-Philippine National Police setup."

Romulo also said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had assured the Palace that there was no credible coup threat against the administration.

"All reports to (Secretary Golez) belie such a rumor," he said.

Kidnapping, etc.

Perez said the supposed plot also involved negative publicity against Cabinet members and intensified kidnapping and other criminal activities to show a breakdown of peace and order.

"Apparently, (the plotters) are planning some disturbance. I don't know what kind and, of course, we are taking precautions to protect ourselves because if there will be some commotion, they might make some attempts against Cabinet members," he said.

Perez said "high-profile" Cabinet members and those "on top of the hit list" of the plotters could be targeted.

But he was quick to exclude himself.

He said he promptly informed the President about the tip and reports he had received. "She said she does not believe it, and asked me if I believe it. And I said I do not believe it," he said.

Apparently, the President changed her mind and called an executive session of the Cabinet on Tuesday, right after the regular Cabinet meeting.

"She (just mentioned the rumors) and it turned out that all of us have heard of these rumors," Perez said.

But Romulo, who chairs the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security, said he was not aware that an executive session had been called.

He said the coup rumors were not discussed during the Cabinet meeting, from which he excused himself at 12:30 p.m. because he had to rush to the House to attend deliberations on the budget of the Office of the President.

Asked what measures had been instituted, Perez said: "Just to be alert because these are rumors. There are no specifications."

He attributed the supposed coup plot to "some sectors who want to grab power."

Tiglao's beef

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, took the INQUIRER to task for its banner story on Tuesday headlined "Coup rumors persist."

"In my years as a journalist, I've never seen a headline reporting a rumor that persists," said Tiglao, a former columnist of this paper and Manila bureau chief of the Far Eastern Economic Review.

He said that the meat of the story was "in fact speculation," and that "it does not have a place in a banner headline."

Tiglao also said that while Malacañang respected the media's duty to report facts, "I cannot understand why a banner headline would report a coup rumor."

He pointed out that it was only Partido ng Masa spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla who was quoted as claiming there were plots.

And "the trademark of the opposition campaign is quite clear," he said.

"What's next?" he asked rhetorically, pointing out that the opposition had come up with the so-called "Guns of August" campaign to expose alleged anomalies in the government, and the supposed coup plot code-named "Black October."

Tiglao also stressed that the President did not cut short her trip to Shanghai because of the coup rumors.

Ms Macapagal was due to return to Manila at 11:30 a.m. Monday, but flew in about nine hours earlier. But this was because, Tiglao said, she had no more business left Sunday night in Shanghai, where she attended the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

"Rather than deciding to sleep over, or shop or drink, as had been the habit of other presidents perhaps, she decided to go home early so she could start work promptly at 8 a.m.," he said.

Tiglao also said there was no formal meeting between the President and Defense Secretary Reyes at the airport. He said Reyes reported to the President about security concerns as she was walking toward her car.

Romulo said that the administration had achieved political stability and that the military "is loyal and faithful to the Constitution."

"Rumors are rumors. We will always have these in our life," he said.

Malacañang confirms . . .

(From page A1)

the President and Pacifico Marcelo after two newspapers reported that Ms Macapagal had attempted to buy the businessman's silence.

"The President is a bit saddened that a meeting (in Malacañang) she agreed on for friendship's sake would be distorted by the opposition as her attempt to bribe Mr. Marcelo," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal strongly denied having tried to bribe Marcelo into absolving her husband from the payoff scandal.

The presidential spokesperson said the meeting took place a week after Marcelo, owner of Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Interface Network Inc., issued a statement denying that his companies had tried to bribe any government official.

"The President agreed to this short meeting. Essentially, it was a cordial affair. The President thanked Mr. Marcelo for issuing that press release.

"She emphasized that never in their conversation was a bribe offered," Tiglao added.

It was Marcelo who asked for the meeting, and not the President, according to Tiglao.

Tiglao could not say whether Mr. Arroyo or any other people were present during the meeting.

According to the news reports, Ms Macapagal called up Marcelo sometime in August to discuss a possible compromise.

Assurances

The President allegedly assured Marcelo that he would not be prosecuted and that Mr. Arroyo would clear his name in a Senate investigation of the alleged payoff.

But the President supposedly advised Marcelo to forget about the possibility of his companies ever getting a franchise. She even reportedly told him "we would put up our own."

The unnamed source quoted in the news reports took Ms Macapagal's words to mean that the First Couple was planning to put up a similar telecommunications firm.

One bill would have granted a franchise to PCCI to operate a clearinghouse through which telecom firms would interconnect for a fee.

Another bill would have granted APC Wireless a franchise to build a wireless telecommunications system nationwide.

The First Gentleman is being investigated by the Senate for allegedly demanding millions of pesos in exchange for his wife's recall of her veto of the franchises previously granted by Congress to Marcelo's firms.

Ms Macapagal had earlier cleared her husband of any wrongdoing, which was first raised by her former correspondence secretary Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo.

Rodrigo at first said that she resigned because she was being blamed for the failure of Mr. Arroyo's group to lift the veto.

Hearsay

She later explained that she just heard from someone that Mr. Arroyo had received a bribe from Marcelo's companies.

At the hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee on Oct. 11, Rodrigo said she had no direct knowledge or evidence of the bribery allegations against the First Gentleman.

But she named the three people, including two palace officials, who allegedly received P40 million in bribes to persuade Ms Macapagal to rescind her veto of the congressional franchises for Marcelo's firms.

Rodrigo said she learned of the alleged payoff from Malou Nuñez, a former consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Inquirer bags . . .

(From page A1)

that the media be made a "true instrument of authentic information and wholesome entertainment."

Since 1972, the CMMA has honored notable examples of mass media work for both technical excellence and the portrayal of human values. The categories range across almost all forms of mass media including movies, TV and radio programs, newspapers, advertisements and comic strips.

Reporters

The reporters who covered People Power II for the INQUIRER were: Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Christine Herrera, Blanche Rivera, Jerome Aning, Gerald Lacuarta, Norman Bordadora, Agnes Donato, Mike Ubac, Philip Tubeza, Alcuin Papa, Carlito Pablo, Volt Contreras, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine Avendaño, Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan, Martin Marfil, Donna Cueto, Rocky Nazareno, Armand Nocum and Dona Pazzibugan.

INQUIRER columnist Randy David's winning piece was his column on a "Letter to a Granddaughter." Pastrano's winning entry was for the feature article, "The Mamanwas Wake Up to the 21st Century."

The other major winners are: Best Film of the Year, Tanging Yaman by Star Cinema; Best News Photograph, Saving Life and Rice by Sonny M. Espiritu of the Manila Standard; Best Investigative Report, Conspiracy of Silence at PNPA by Alfred Dalizon of People's Journal; Best Special Event Coverage, Ang Paglusob sa Malacañang, by DZBB, GMA Network Inc.; Best News Magazine, I-Witness (Jessica), GMA 7; Best News Program, Saksi, GMA7; Best Talk Show, Pointblank, ANC-Channel 21.

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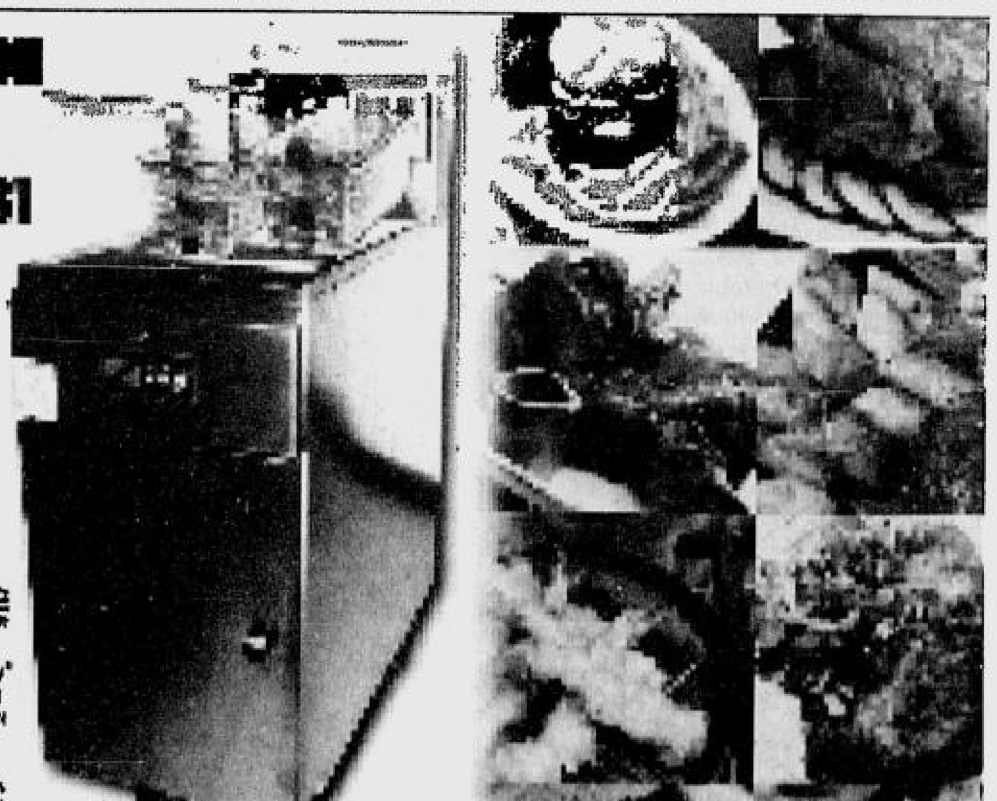

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SOUTHBEND FRYERS
by Middleby

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Kournikova ends losing run

LUXEMBOURG—Anna Kournikova ended a five-match losing streak Tuesday with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Jana Kandarr in the first round of the $170,000 SEAT Open. The 20-year-old Russian won her first match since coming back last month from a stress fracture of her left foot which has kept her out of action for most of the season. Kournikova, seeded fifth, now faces a tough second-round match with the promising Slovak teenager Daniela Hantuchova who defeated German qualifier Andrea Glass 6-4, 6-4. *AP*

RP Youth chessers shine

FILIPINO entries, led by IM Mark Paragua, shone in the third round of the World Youth Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar, Spain on Tuesday. Paragua stunned China's third seeded FM Ni Hua in 32 moves of a Sicilian Najdorf in the premiere boys' 18-under to boost his total to a perfect 3 points. Other winners were NM John Paul Gomez in the boys' 16-under and Ivan Gil Biag in the boys' 12 under. Gomez beat Russia's Boris Gratchev while Biag trounced another Russian, Mansour Migatchev. Both have 2.5 points in three games.

Rally not backed by NSA heads

PSC to give cash incentives

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUASON

NATIONAL sports associations presidents yesterday said they are deploring the planned protest rally of members of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines even as the Acap stood pat on its decision to push through with the mass action which begins at noon today.

NSA presidents, who met with Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason Tuesday night at the Manila Yacht Club, called for a dialogue between the PSC officials and the Acap "to solve the problems that ails Philippine sports."

During the meeting, both the PSC and the NSAs agreed to face together the looming crisis which will be caused by the huge cut in budget allocation from the national government.

"I feel that it was the right time for us to know what we need to do to harmonize relations between the NSAs and the PSC," said Tuason. "We tried to explain that releasing of funds may get delayed simply because other agencies in government are experiencing the same."

Just the same, Acap president Jaime Sebastian said there's no stopping the group from holding the rally. He added that about 500 athletes, coaches and sympathizers are expected to show up.

The protest action, the third by the group against Tuason's administration, will begin at noon with the celebration of the Holy Mass to be officiated by Fr. Robert Reyes.

In a show of sincerity, the PSC promised to reward the NSAs which produced gold medals in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games with cash bonanza.

Track and field is the biggest beneficiary with P200,000 after winning nine gold medals. Bowling earned P125,000 for its haul of four, wushu (P100,000), billiards and snookers (P75,000) and taekwondo (P75,000).

Tuason also exhorted the NSAs to make the most of what government money can be allotted them. With regards to the rally being planned for today, Tuason said that he just hopes it would be "peaceful enough" not to endanger anybody entering the premises of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The declaration of non-support from the NSAs came after the bulk of the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc. (PAAFI) headed by Nelia Sy-Ycasas had announced they are not joining the protest action.

The PAAFI is instead keeping its focus on the launching of its Sports Iskolar ng Bayan program where it is tying up with schools like the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and computer schools for the education of its members.

The Acap shunned all the last-minute attempts of Tuason and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit to appease them. According to Sebastian, they just offered the "same old, empty promises."

But Tuason claimed that he has met all the athletes' demands, saying he has approved the increase in their salaries last May and additional subsidy for their vitamins.

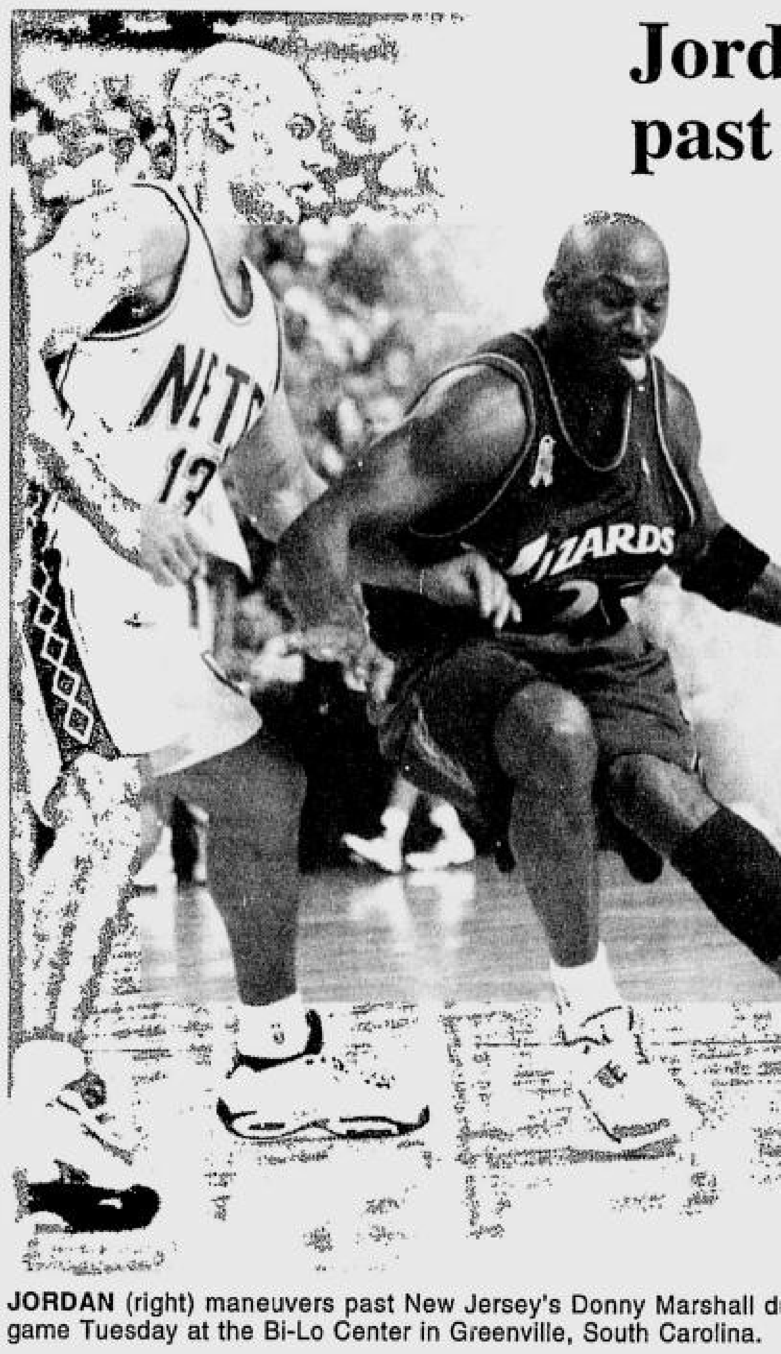
Nevertheless, Tuason said he won't stop Acap from holding the rally and instead will see to it that the national athletes and coaches are safe in the streets.

"It's my duty to protect them against outsiders who just might want to take advantage of the situation," Tuason told the INQUIRER. "But I'm for negotiation all the time."

The PSC chief claimed that he tried to talk with the athletes thrice already but every time, Sebastian could not come up with their list of demands.

"Why are they afraid to put their demands in writing?" said Tuason. "I was only asking that. I've tried my best to reach to them and settle this amicably."

Jordan lifts Wizards past Nets, 105-92


JORDAN (right) maneuvers past New Jersey's Donny Marshall during their game Tuesday at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville, South Carolina. AP

GREENVILLE, South Carolina — Michael Jordan scored 27 points and hit two clinching baskets in the final three minutes Tuesday to lead his Washington Wizards to a 105-92 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

A 3-pointer from the Nets' Keith Van Horn cut the Wizards' lead to 94-90, before Jordan hit a jump shot from the left side with 2:43 left. After New Jersey's Jason Kidd missed a 3-pointer, Jordan again freed himself for a basket as Washington (2-4) won for the first time in four games.

As if to announce he was back to the capacity crowd of 14,313, Jordan went one-on-one with Kidd and hit a closing jumper to loud cheers and a flurry of flash bulbs.

It was Jordan's longest outing of the preseason at 36 minutes, and maybe his most complete game. He was 10-of-23 from the field with 10 rebounds, five assists and three steals. He also had six turnovers.

Van Horn led the Nets (3-3) with 22 points and Todd MacCulloch had 21. Kidd was only 3-of-13 from the field and had seven points.

Hornets 91, Hawks 79

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Baron Davis scored 17 points as the Hornets completed their exhibition schedule with a 91-79 victory over Atlanta.

David Wesley added 16 points, Jamal Mashburn had 15 and Elden Campbell 13 for the Hornets (5-3).

Shareef Abdur-Rahim led Atlanta (4-3) with 14 points, and Dion Glover and Jason Terry added 12 each.

Heat 90, Spurs 88

In Boca Raton, Florida, Eddie House scored 24 points as Miami beat San Antonio Spurs to avoid their worst preseason finish ever.

LaPhonso Ellis added 14 points, and Kendall Gill and Sam Mack each scored 13 for Miami, which completed exhibition play with and win-loss of 2-5. The Heat will open the regular season Oct. 31 against Toronto. *AP*

Mandaluyong derby tonight

THE UNITED Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) Stagfighter of the Year 2001 winner will be known tonight when the 7th Ucap/Bacolod Group 7-Stag Derby gets going at the Mandaluyong Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

After last Tuesday's elimination round, engineer Sonny Lagon (Blue Blade JBB) is the Stagfighter leader with 28 points. However, Mayor Claudy Bautista and Boyboy Roa (CPB PBRJ I) are threateningly close at 27.5 points.

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan, 26) slipped into third spot, followed by businessman-sportsman Vic Yu (Sir Vincent, 25.5); Benjie Lim (Ucap BL Sept. 25-27, 23.5) and Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv., 23.5). For other inquiries, please contact 535-2341, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Socsargen hands Davao's 8th loss

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's San Juan	7	1
FedEx Laguna	5	3
Nueva Ecija	2	6
Southern Conference		
Negros	7	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	6
Socsargen-Taguig	3	9
TPG Davao	0	8

GAMES TOMORROW

La Salle Lipa Sentrum

3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs Socsargen-Taguig

5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs LBC Batangas

THE SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG Marlins are not about to let themselves become the first victim of the TPG Davao Eagles.

Buboy Rodriguez and Bong Alvarez lit up the charts and Egay Echavez took care of ball distribution as the Marlins downed the Eagles, 112-106, yesterday in the MBA Second Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Hitting his perimeter jumpers, Rodriguez accounted for 34 points while Alvarez barreled his way for 30 to power the Marlins to their third win in 12 starts that boosted their drive for a semifinals slot.

The troika also worked wonders in the pivotal fourth quarter, which saw the Marlins wipe out a five-point deficit and wrest the lead for good at 112-106.

Rodriguez banked in seven points while Alvarez and Echavez added a basket each as the Marlins clustered 11 points in a three-minute span to hand the Eagles their eighth straight defeat.

To the Eagles' credit, however, they did not yield without a fight. With rookie Peter June Simon combining with veteran Genesis Sasuman, TPG Davao threatened at 119-116, still 32 seconds to go.

The 6-foot-2 Rodriguez, however, came through with a freethrow and Alvarez sealed the outcome on another drive.

Aside from chipping in 23 points, Echavez issued 10 assists, grabbed 4 rebounds and had one steal to share player of the game honors with Rodriguez, who also plucked 8 rebounds and had 4 steals.

Negros exacted revenge over Cebuana Lhuillier, 91-87, in the other game at the Cebu Coliseum. Negros rose to 7-2, while Cebuana Lhuillier fell to 4-6 in the Southern Conference. *Roy Luarca*

Navy, Veterans rule Interclub

PHILIPPINE Navy and Veterans shared overall team honors while Louie Advincula and Hector Samonte emerged as top individual performers in the recently concluded Federation of Philippine Senior Golfers Inc. 2001 Interclub tournament in three venues.

Navy and Veterans showed up a field of eleven clubs for the team title, banking on their victories in Group A and Group C, respectively, in a three-day competition around Intramuros, Riviera and Wack Wack.

Advincula, playing for Canlubang, scored 223 in winning the overall individual gross plum with Andy Vasquez of Veterans placing four strokes behind at 227 and Danny Dalija another two shots back at 229.

Samonte, spearheading the Navy bid, copped the overall net title in runaway fashion as he finished 12 ahead of Joshua Pastores of Riviera with his 180. Rudy Comia of Fernando Air Base placed third at 193.

Canlubang Sugar Estate shared Group A honors with Veterans, Aguinaldo was solo winner of Group B and Navy went home with the Group C trophy.

Daily group winners were Orchard and Navy (A), Aguinaldo (B) and Fernando Air Base (C) at Riviera; Canlubang, FAB and Intramuros at Intramuros and CSEAA, Aguinaldo and Navy at Wack Wack.

WBC EXEC VALHANDUMON

Shown in photo is Jesus Mendoza (second from left), executive director of the World Boxing Asssociation, shaking hands with GAB Chair Eduardo Villanueva. Watching are commissioner Bautista (extreme left) and lawyer Rudy Salud, manager of former World Superflyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa. Mendoza, who was a recent visitor to renew ties with the new GAB leadership, was hosted to dinner by Salud before he departed for his WBA base in Caracas, Venezuela.

Europe stars picked

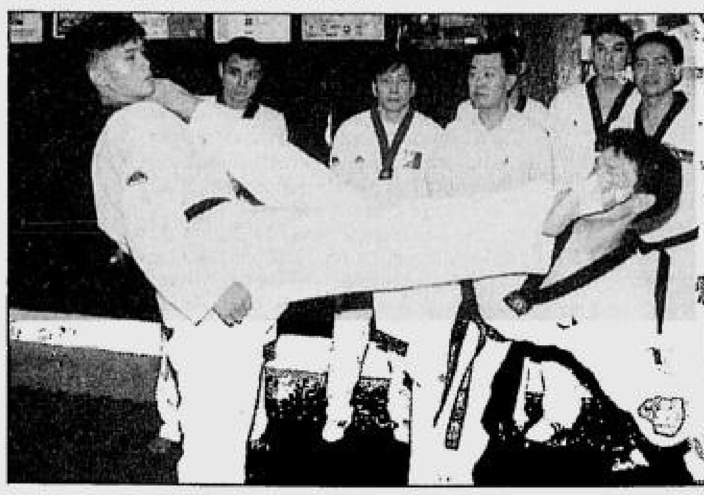
NEW YORK—European stars Galileo and Fantastic Light are set to renew their rivalry and make their dirt-track debuts in the $4 million Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday at Belmont Park.

Galileo, a 3-year-old colt, won his first six starts, including the English Derby at Epsom Downs, and beat Fantastic Light in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Ascot.

The 5-year-old Fantastic Light then handed Galileo his first defeat in the Irish Champion in their last starts Sept. 8.

"It's his toughest test to date," said Michael Kinane, who rides Galileo for trainer Aidan O'Brien.

"Something you can't forget is that it's been a long year for a 3-year-old," Kinane said Tuesday. *AP*


HONING UP

Tshomlee Go (left) and Roberto Cruz, two of the members of the Petron Philippine Taekwondo Team which will compete in the world championships in Jeju City, Jeju, Korea on Oct. 28-Nov. 8 swap kicks as they train under the watchful eyes of former world champion and Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Hong Sung Chon and coaches Dr. Noli Gabriel, Jesus Morales III and Victor Emmanuel Veneracion. Also shown are Mark Rivero and Jeferthom Go.

Don Enrique golf Oct. 26

DON ENRIQUE Heights Homeowners Association in cooperation with Dehha Golf Club will hold an invitational golf tournament on Oct. 26 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf and Country Club

The golfest will be held for the benefit of Our Lady of Remedies Chapel renovation. Tee off time is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Early sponsors of the tournament are Philippine Internal Life Insurance Co. Inc., Urology Center of the Phils., Reiner Pacific International Shipping, Deputy, Gov. Amando Tetangco, Cargo Safeway Inc., San Miguel Corp., Nestle Philippines, Baxter Health Care Phil, Inc., Dela Rosa Tejero Nograles Law Offices, El Jose Catering Services, Metrobank-Commonwealth, UKC Commercial Press, Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez, Anchor Distilled Water, Pagcor and Duty Free.

Billiards is about competition

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

UNASSUMING Efren 'Bata' Reyes is a true sportsman by accepting the challenge to take on all comers in a sport where there should be no discrimination. And precisely because billiards is about competition, Bata Reyes is playing Jeannette Lee, one of the world's leading female players, in a unique one-on-one match at Casino Filipino Parañaque on Nov. 3.

It's not about the money (Reyes and Lee could earn more by playing in the lucrative US tour), but I would say they are playing here to make a statement for billiards, which has been wrongly perceived as a sport long associated with gamblers and hustlers.

In his forthcoming matchup, I am sure Reyes won't allow himself to be measured by what others expect (or say) of him. He is his own man, who wins oftentimes and loses sometimes because he is only human.

Reyes is not taking Lee lightly, saying the LG Flatron Challenge should be an exciting and interesting duel, but he doesn't plan to be humiliated by a woman.

"I could be 'distracted' by his beauty but I am keen on winning," said Reyes, 1999 world 9-ball champion and reigning 8-ball kingpin. "Jeannette could beat me in a short race to five, but in a race to 13 (which is the LG Flatron format), I have the advantage."

But who is Jeannette Lee?

For nearly a decade, Lee, a 5-foot-6 Korean-American stunner, has been the most celebrated and accomplished female player in the United States Women's Professional Billiards Association tour. Always a crowd drawer, Lee is popularly known as "The Black Widow" in the same way that our very own Efren Reyes is called "The Magician" by pool writers. In the WPBA circuit, Lee is ranked among the top alongside Allison Fisher, Loree Jon Jones, Vivian Villareal, Helena Thornfeldt, Gerda Hofstatter, Robin Dodson, Ewa Laurance, Nikki Benish and Laura Smith.

Lee is best remembered for cutting a swatch to the 17th-24th place of last year's Camel-sponsored $150,000 World Pro 8-all Championship at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, earning $2,000 together with, among others, former world champion Nick Varner of the US and Filipinos Warren Kiamco, a gold medal winner in the double 15-ball rotation (with Reyes) during the 1999 Brunei SEA Games; and Santos Sambajon, who once defeated world-ranked Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

She also set a record by breaking the gender barrier in billiards as the lone woman competitor in the formidable field of 96 all-male pros, defeating ranking American player Danny Medina and Sambajon. Lee lost to Troy Frank, who eventually finished fourth overall, but she finished ahead of billiards legends Johnny Arcer, Mike Lebron and, believe it or not, then defending champion Earl Strickland.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Judicial System 2. Big Treasure 3. Yes Sir

Race 2—1. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 2. Primeministrator 3. Green Leaves 4. Accommodating

Race 3—1. Jessie James 2. Summer Dreams 3. Breakaway Artist 4. Pride of Mandaue

Race 4—1. Kiwi Rose 2. Super Sharp 3. Aim and Fire 4. October Sky

Race 5—1. Snake Prince 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Little Red 4. Batang Plaza

Race 6—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Cubano 3. Kissin Tzang 4. Aprey's Choice 5. Imperial Passion

Race 7—1. Something Silver 2. Hemisphere 3. Moving Target 4. Rainmaker 5. Bari Bari

Race 8—1. Pistol Star 2. D Pen Traveller 3. Kamahalan

Race 9—1. Timeless Beauty 2. Precious Moment 3. Padron Real 4. Yours Truly 5. King Edward

Tanduay stays alive

GAMES TOMORROW
(Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.—San Miguel vs Talk N text

THE TANDUAY Rhum Masters are hurting but still fighting.

Banking on two charities by Jeffrey Cariaso and a layup by Billy Thomas down the stretch, the Rhum Masters bested the Shell Turbochargers, 81-78, last night to inject life to their waning bid for a playoff berth in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

"We are hurting that's for sure," Pumaren said. "But we cannot just roll over and die out there. The boys know that and they have been responding with all they have got."

Thomas, of course, knew that bailing Tanduay out of the rut was his primary responsibility. Showing his versatility, Thomas finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to power Tanduay to its third win in 10 starts. Tied with Purefoods for ninth place, it is just half-a-game shy of idle Alaska in the spirited fight for the eighth spot in the quarterfinals.

"The good thing for us is that we still control our destiny," said Pumaren. "We're not out of it yet and I told the boys that we just have to continue working hard and who knows, we might be able to advance."

Saddled by the absence of Eric Menk, out of the conference with a pulled calf muscle, and Noli Locsin, down with the flu, Tanduay has to make do with nine not exactly healthy players.

Cariaso himself, Bong Hawkins and Jayson Webb are also not in peak form yet having recovered from injuries.

Batang Red Bull drubbed Barangay Ginebra, 93-72, in the second game to rise to 5-4 in a tie with its victim. *Roy Luarca*

Scores:

TANDUAY 81—Thomas 22, Hawkins 18, Pumaren 11, Honliveros 8, Cariaso 7, Cantonjos 7, Realubit 6, Webb 2, Belingil 0.

SHELL 78—Jones 33, Singson 12, Wainwright 9, Hrabak 8, Paras 7, Telan 5, Jackson 2, DelaCruz 2, Esplana 0, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 22-22, 44-36, 61-54, 81-78.

TOP ROOKIE

Jeremy Marquez of Team Edgesports (33) displays his winning form during the FSL race in the ninth and final leg of the Shell Super Karting Series 2001 at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite. Marquez, who is also being supported by Shell, Skytrek and Star Fleet, was adjudged Rookie of the Year in the annual series organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils.

'Speedfest' set

THE MOST prolific racing team in the country today, the MP Turbo Racing Team, will organize a new event called Speedfest 2001 in Subic on Nov. 3-4.

Speedfest 2001, to be held at the Subic Lemans Kart Track in front of the Subic Yacht Club, is an entirely new concept that will provide clinics to upcoming kart enthusiasts, racing events for hardcore race fans and a fans' day that will showcase the team's race drivers and championship-winning cars.

The event will be a four-leg race, exhibition, clinic series that will be held in cooperation with SBMA, headed by chair Felicito Payumo.

The pioneering event is supported by MP Turbo, Zed, Snapple, Gatorade, Gandour, Gulf Oil, Francisco Motors, Gomaking Trading, Abanta Newspaper, AER Engines, Rota Wheels, BLTBCo and Subic Lemans.

For more information, please call Toti or Lyn in MP Turbo at 835-5501 local 37 and 38.

Bonds named Player of Year

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Barry Bonds, who recorded one of the greatest offensive seasons ever in baseball, was the obvious choice of his peers as The Sporting News' Player of the Year. The San Francisco Giants slugger broke Mark McGwire's 1998 home run record of 70 by hitting 73, and had the highest slugging percentage (.863) and most walks (177) in a single season. Both records were held by Babe Ruth.

In voting by Major League players, Bonds received 133 votes to finish ahead of runner-up Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs with 57 votes and Luis Gonzalez of the Arizona Diamondbacks with 48. *AFP*

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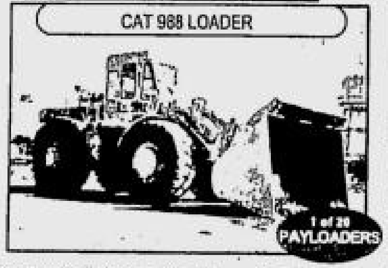

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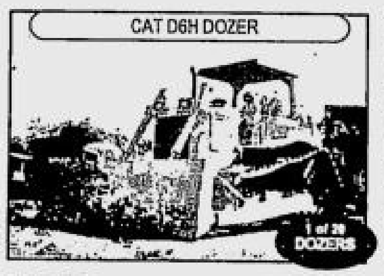
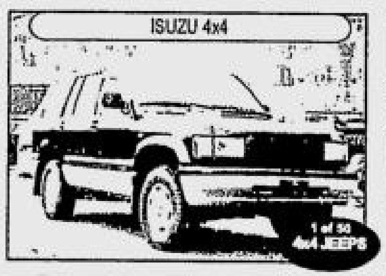
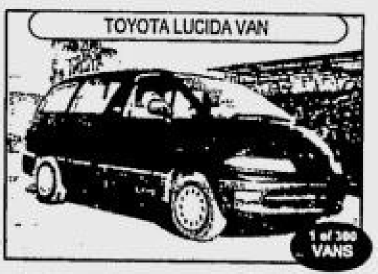


ISUZU 4x4


LATE MODEL HONDA DIO SCOOTERS

2 of 300 MOTORBIKES
ISUZU 10W ALUMINUM DROPSIDE

1 of 50 10W CARGO
TOYOTA LUCIDA VAN


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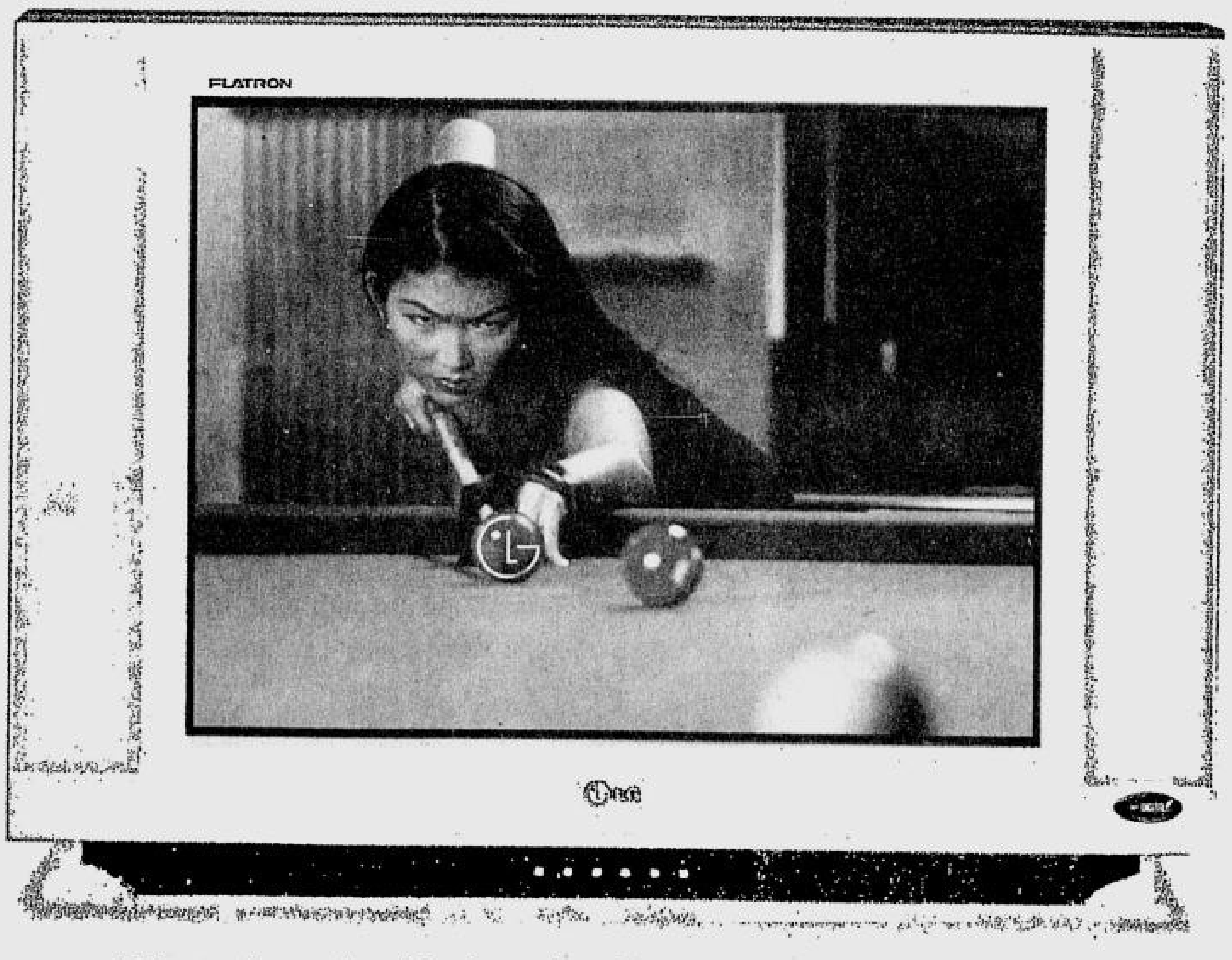

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JAPAN QUALIFIERS

Front row (from left to right): Malou Jimenez –ADM Legaspi Branch; Betty Malabanan – ADM Ortigas Branch; Nenita Alano – UM Salcedo Branch; Roanne Raymundo – FP Ortigas Branch **Middle Row (from left to right):** John Jimenez – FP Legaspi Branch; Medileen Herrera – FP Salcedo Branch; Esperanza Torres – ADM Aurora Branch; Nenita Raymundo – UM Ortigas Branch; Corazon Lim – FP Banawe Branch **Back Row (from left to right):** Charles Dy – ADM Banawe Branch; Julie Yu – UM Banawe Branch; Carlos Alano – ADM Salcedo Branch; Angelina Franco – UM Legaspi Branch; Theresa Musni – FP Ortigas Branch; Jeffrey Musni – UM Ortigas Branch

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BORACAY QUALIFIERS

Front row (from left to right): Teresita Concepcion – FP Salcedo Branch; Vini Pesayco – ADM Alabang Branch; Maribe Co – FP Banawe Branch **Middle Row (from left to right):** Mary Ann Rayos – FP Alabang Branch; Felipa Calonce – ADM Cabanatuan Branch; Leo Cabangangan – FP Aurora Branch; Jocelyn Cainglet – UM Legaspi Branch; Narciso Calonce – UM Cabanatuan Branch **Back Row (from left to right):** Regino Galang – UM Salcedo Branch; Cynthia Mendoza – FP Aurora Branch; Pete Bugay – FP Alabang Branch; Jacqueline Reyes – FP Aurora Branch; Nicetas Torres – UM Aurora Branch **Not in photo:** Antonio Quintano – FP Greenhills 2 Branch; Jo Sta. Ana – UM Alabang Branch

Pandacan police chief stays

WESTERN Police District (WPD) director Chief Supt. Nicholas Pasinos Jr. yesterday said he was not about to relieve the Pandacan police station chief despite the complaints of Pandacan barangay captains and policemen. Pasinos said the complaints against Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue were mostly about the police chief's "style of leadership" and that the protesting policemen did not produce any damaging evidence. "Why am I going to suspend Bantigue? He is not harassing anybody. I think this is not about his performance but about his leadership style," Pasinos said.

Philip Tubeza

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Dreaming of a garbage-free Christmas A20

Naia now threatened with closure

ROGER MARGALLO

AFTER flights were suspended and hundreds of passengers stranded, workers rush to patch up a rutted Naia runway Tuesday night.

By Alcuin Papa

PARAÑAQUE City officials yesterday threatened to close the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for non-payment of land taxes.

In a press conference in Mandaluyong City yesterday, Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez said Naia has been delinquent in settling its tax obligations to the city government since 1997.

"The Naia owes the city government P639 million in land taxes," Marquez said. "I will be forced to subject the Naia to a public auction should (the airport officials) fail to settle their back taxes."

Airport officials, arguing the issue before the Court of Appeals, maintained that the Naia is a government owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) and as such they are exempt from local taxes. They also said that a 20-percent share of their operational income has been turned over to the National Treasury.

But Marquez said they were not contesting Naia's status as a GOCC.

"What we are talking about here is not the nature of their operation but the non-payment of their land taxes because they are situated within the territory of Parañaque," Marquez explained.

He said the Naia already paid P30 million in land taxes in 1996, which Marquez said was "an admission of their obligation."

NAIA/A20

Pinay brides selling hot at P.4 M each

By Juliet L. Javellana

400,000 ONLY

A BINONDO-BASED criminal syndicate that recruits young women from the provinces sells them as "brides" to foreigners, a member of Congress bared yesterday.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Cebu, Lakas) said the women were being marketed at P400,000 each.

Cuenco asked the Philippine National Police to hunt down members of the syndicate and crack down on the "alarming problem of white slavery and trafficking of women" in the Philippines.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, said the young Filipinas

PINAY/A20

WAZZZZUP? ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Cowboy GRILL 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MABINI	STREETLIFE/MIX-UP DAUGHTERS & BANANA	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy GRILL 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	KOOL JACKS FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
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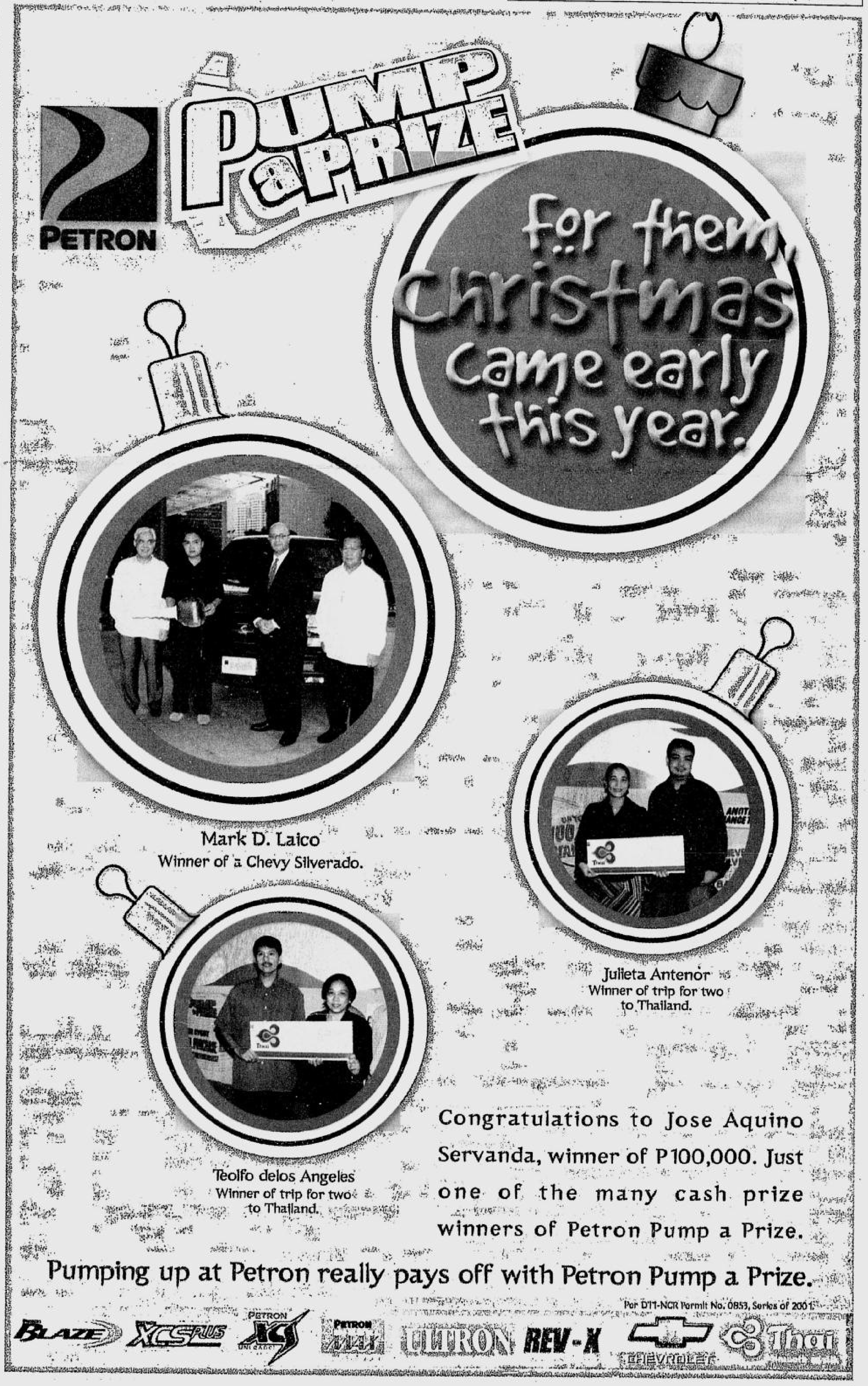

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MMDA dreaming of a garbage-free Christmas

By Alcuin Papa

IT COULD only be a Christmas wish, but Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday said city residents would have a garbage-free Yuletide.

In a press conference, Abalos said the dumping of Metro Manila's trash in Bagac, Bataan would begin in December at the latest.

"Hopefully, by the end of November or the first week of December, the dumpsite would be operational," Abalos said.

Abalos also revealed that the MMDA has junked the proposal to use the area surrounding the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong, Bataan as a temporary dumpsite.

"We would be no longer using the BNPP," he said. "That has been abandoned and we are focusing on Bagac instead. The BNPP is in Morong but because of the objection of the people there, we will no longer use this. The garbage will go straight to Bagac."

About a million tons of garbage from Metro Manila is in Pier 18 after plans to dump it on Semirara Island in Antique were shelved following protests from the residents. This would now be shipped to Bagac, along with the garbage that has accumulated in Metro Manila.

...I'M DREAMING OF A CLEAN CHRISTMAS...
To: Bagac
To: Rizal

Metro Manila produces about 6,000 tons of garbage a day.

Abalos said the landfill contractors in Bagac are securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) so that dumping could start.

Construction of a road leading to a sanitary landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal is also being completed, Abalos said.

But dumping the garbage in Bagac and Rodriguez is only a "short and long term" solution to the garbage problem, he said.

Earlier, Bataan Governor Leonardo Roman said his province was not ready to accept Metro Manila's trash. But Abalos said local officials and residents had already agreed to the dumping "provided there are certain conditions that would be met."

These conditions include the construction of a sanitary landfill and a materials reduction facility for segregating and recycling garbage, Abalos said.

He said garbage would be shipped in sealed container barges from Manila to Bagac, with each container containing from 10 to 15 tons of trash.

No encounter; killers of four farmers relieved

By Alcuin Papa
and Romulo O. Ponte,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SEVEN members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force were relieved from duty yesterday and would be slapped with administrative charges before the National Police Commission for killing four farmers in Antipolo City Sunday.

Director Antonio Salazar, chief of the Napolcom's Investigation, Monitoring, and Inspection Service said his office received orders to disarm Senior Insp. Erikson Dilag, PO2 Ronald Cuya, PO2 Ernesto Bautista, PO2 Gatmar Jatalis, PO2 Pablito dela Cruz, PO1 Glen Salcedo and PO1 Crispin Cultinio, all based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig.

Salazar said he had already issued summons to the seven SAF suspects and asked them to submit a written explanation of the incident within 10 days.

The SAF were accused of killing farmers Raul Maguiza, 38; Dominador Aniceto, 36; Emiliano dela Rosa, 48 and his son Reynaldo, 26.

The SAF members earlier reported they were conducting operations in a hilly portion of Sitio Kasunugan, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo when they encountered armed elements of the New People's Army.

The four victims died in the ensuing gun battle, the SAF men said.

But the NPA issued a statement denying the SAF's claim that the farmers were members of the rebel group's Narciso Antazo Aramil Command.

An autopsy report conducted on the victims revealed that they were shot in the back, disproving the claim of SAF men that the farmers were killed in a legitimate operation.

A human rights group based in Antipolo City strongly condemned Sunday's killing and said the four farmers were residents of Sitio San Ysiro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Rev. Armando Perez, Karapatan-Rizal chair, said victims Reynaldo and Emiliano de la Rosa were both Dumagat natives while Maguiza and Aniceto were farmers affiliated with the Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid (Kasama-Rizal).

Emiliano's son Jonathan told Karapatan members that about 5 a.m. Sunday, he saw his father and brother Reynaldo along with the two other victims, leave their house to hunt for wild pigs.

About 9:30 a.m., they heard gunshots from the nearby mountain which lasted for about 15 minutes.

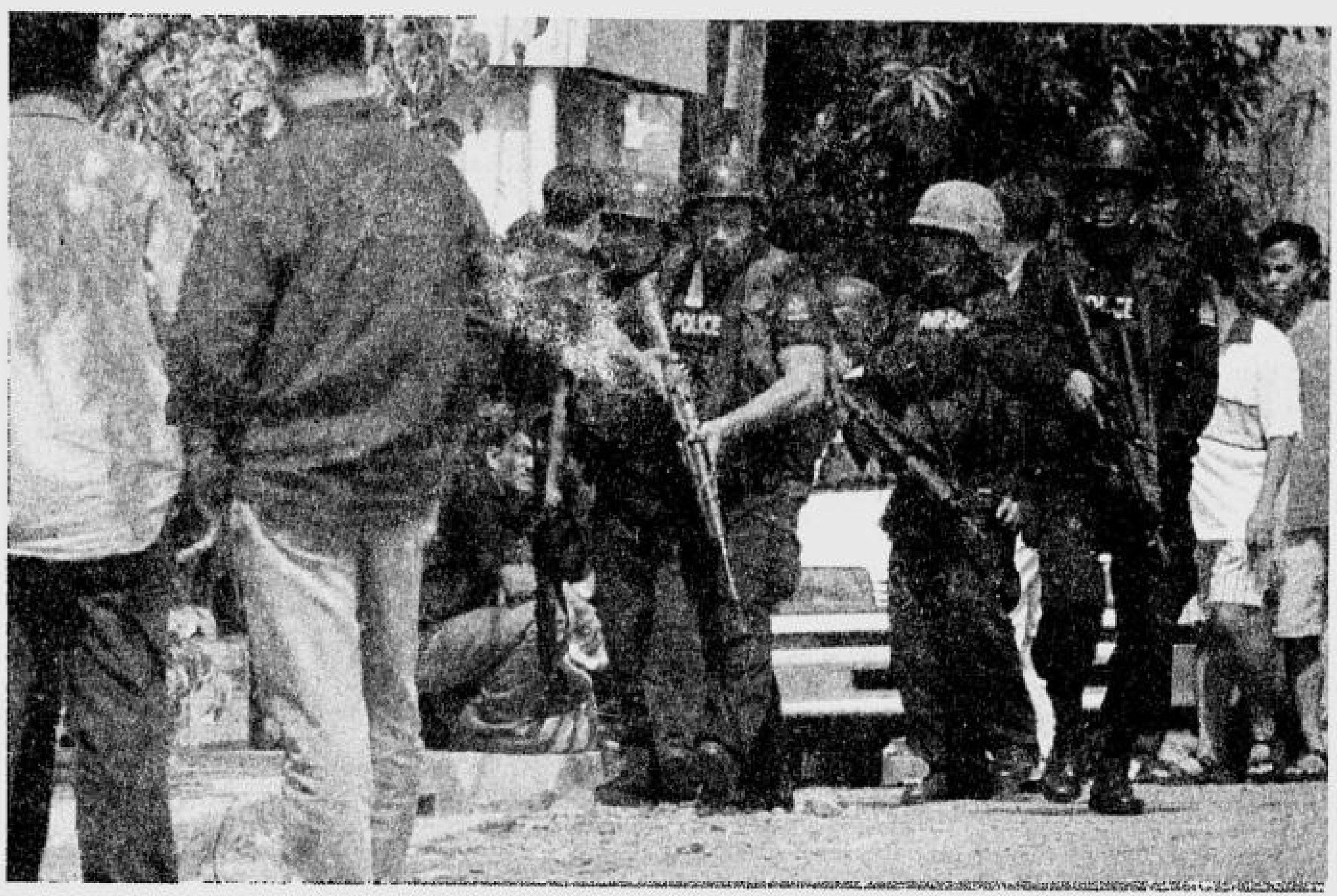
Emiliano's brother Leopoldo told Karapatan that about 3 p.m., six military men came looking for the village head because there was something to be carried.

Since the village head was not around, Leopoldo and some other residents went with the lawmen who were in uniform but without nameplates.

They said they were shocked to learn that they would be carrying back the remains of their fellow residents to the village.

According to Leopoldo, the victims' bodies were riddled with bullets and bore signs of torture.

"An incident like this is a clear violation of the human rights (of the four victims) and Karapatan-Rizal vehemently condemned this," Perez said in a statement.



FINAL ASSAULT DENNIS SABANGAN

Policemen make their final move on the Quezon City lair of a kidnap-for-ransom-syndicate. It took more than five hours and a shootout for more than 100 policemen to penetrate the hideout. One of the policemen was killed, the gang leader escaped, but four of the suspects were captured. ***(Story on page 1)***

Cops charged with beating up pregnant woman, 4 vendors

By Philip C. Tubeza

SEVEN Western Police District (WPD) policemen are in hot water after they allegedly beat up four vendors, including a 27-year-old pregnant woman.

J. Abad Santos police station narcotics agents SPO1 Serafin Galpo, PO2 Redentor delos Santos, PO2 Edgar Lacson, PO2 Edwin Nobleza, and a PO2 Landia were allegedly drunk when they beat up Grace Aquino, seven months pregnant, and her companions.

The identities of the two other erring policemen remained unknown.

The other victims were identified as Ronalyn Hernandez, 18; Teresita dela Cruz, 45; and Gerald Poras, all residents of Remedios Street, Malate, Manila.

However, PO2 Lacson denied that they beat up the vendors, adding that the victims were the ones who attacked the policemen.

The incident reportedly happened around 4:30 a.m. yesterday near the Cowboy Grill restaurant along Remedios Street in Malate, Manila.

The suspects allegedly had a drinking spree at the Cowboy Grill restaurant.

The suspects allegedly got into trouble with some "solvent boys" in the area while they were buying cigarettes outside the restaurant.

Unable to find the culprits, Lacson and his companions allegedly vented their ire on Aquino and other vendors in the area.

The suspects allegedly drew out their guns, pointed these at the complainants, and then beat up the vendors, including Aquino. They allegedly even tried to strip off her clothes.

But P02 Lacson told a different story, denying that he and the other lawmen beat up the complainants.He said he and his three colleagues were in Remedios because they were on a follow-up operation after they arrested suspected drug pusher Aniceto Rodriguez, 29, of Dagupan, Tondo after midnight yesterday.

Lacson said he was urinating on the roadside when he saw the complainants, including Aquino, sniffing rugby.

One of the suspects then allegedly hit Lacson's head with a beer bottle. Lacson showed the INQUIRER a cut on his right eyebrow.

Lacson added that his colleagues helped him and tired to nab the vendors. However, the policemen were only able to collar Aquino.

Supt. Gil de Castro, J. Abad Santos police station chief, ordered an investigation into he alleged beating.

Corruption at DPWH exposed

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ACCORDING to affidavits on file at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Ombudsman, there is one more plunder case against former President Erap which has yet to be filed.

But the DOJ does not want to file the case for reasons only Justice Secretary Hernando Perez or his lieutenants know.

Erap allegedly made about a billion pesos in commission from the sale of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) to the First Pacific. The commission was allegedly given by Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, erstwhile PLDT chair. I got this from sources close to witness Mark Jimenez, elected Manila congressman.

***

The same sources say Manny Pangilinan, boss of First Pacific, chair of PLDT and personal protégé of Indonesian businessman Anthony Salim, owner of First Pacific, allegedly paid Erap millions of pesos in kickbacks. The money was allegedly deposited in the Jose Velarde account.

If the DOJ decides to file the PLDT plunder case against Erap, his co-accused would be Cojuangco and Pangilinan.

It seems the present officials at the DOJ choose their targets. Why? Or should the question be "for what considerations?"

***

Romeo Panganiban, former director of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Southern Tagalog, was kidnapped, according to some news reports. But other reports said he was not.

True or not, Panganiban could readily give any amount of ransom that his kidnappers might demand.

Panganiban is one of the wealthiest officials in the graft-ridden DPWH. He allegedly acquired his wealth through kickbacks from contractors.

If that is so, why hasn't he been charged by the Ombudsman?

***

Oh, but Panganiban is not the only DPWH official who should be charged with graft since most officials at the department are corrupt!

Consider these:

- **Most DPWH regional directors and district engineers have acquired property beyond their salaries.**
- **Most DPWH deputy secretaries and assistant secretaries who are chairs of pre-qualification bidding awards committees take part in rigging foreign-assisted projects. The projects are those of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (formerly OECF).**

***

For example, Josefino Rigor, DPWH Region 1 director, allegedly loses at least P5 million at the Angeles City casino every night. Where does he get the money?

Rigor's wife, a big-time contractor, allegedly takes part in the bidding of the purchase of junk equipment at the DPWH. What's worse is that Rigor pressures fellow DWPH officials to award the bid to his wife.

***

DPWH insiders say people close to Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong are making the department their "milking cow" by taking part in rigged biddings.

One of the people close to the DPWH secretary is a former congressman from Quezon province, who's a golf crony of Datumanong.

The former congressman serves as a link between Datumanong's relatives and cronies, on the one hand and big contractors and DPWH project directors on the other.

***

The congressman is always seen with big contractors and DPWH officials in five-star hotels. They allegedly talk about how to rig the bids, according to my sources.

My sources say that Datumanong is probably "in" on the conspiracy.

"*Kaya lang, maliit lang ang kinikita ni* Datumanong *dahil hindi niya alam kung ano ang partihan,*" a DPWH insider says.

The DPWH insider says many officials and employees in the department who are not corrupt hark back to the days when the DPWH was run by Gregorio Vigilar.

Napakalinis ng taong yun, Mon," the insider says referring to Vigilar.

***

Capt. Alejandro N. Flora Jr., district commander of the Coast Guard in Western Visayas, denied the allegations in this space last Saturday that the Coast Guard commander in Iloilo apprehended domestic cargoes on flimsy reasons even if he didn't have the authority.

He felt alluded to in last Saturday's column item about the Coast Guard.

Well, I was not referring to you, Captain, but to the Coast Guard commander in Iloilo.

***

Dodjie Ricardo, a businessman in Iloilo City, wrote this writer to complain about the Iloilo Coast Guard chief.

Ricardo said the Coast Guard apprehended a shipment consisting of 26 bales of dry goods belonging to him and five others even when the shipment was covered by shipping documents and invoices.

Customs officials in Iloilo, Ricardo said, questioned the seizure and the authority of the Coast Guard to apprehend the shipment.

What's worse, Ricardo said in his letter, was that the Coast Guard commander demanded P50,000 from him and his companions in consideration for the release of the cargo.

Captain Flora, please investigate Ricardo's allegations.

LRT strike leaders accused of robbery

THE SPOKESPERSON of the Kilusang Mayo Uno and three other employees of the Light Rail Transit were yesterday charged with robbery before the Pasay city prosecutor's office in connection with the strike they staged last year.

City prosecutor Bernabe Solis recommended a P400,000 bail for Sammy Malunes, who is also chair of the Pinagisang Lakas ng Manggagawa sa Metro Inc.-LRT (Piglas), and union officials Randy Macaya, Ricardo Patriarca, and George dela Cueva.

The LRT administration allegedly lost over P1 million in center parts after union members staged a strike to protest the LRT's privatization and voice out other union concerns. *Christian Esguerra*

Pinay brides now selling . . .

(From page A19)

were being sold to "bride-seeking" Taiwanese and other foreigners.

He said the "regular clients" of this syndicate include Taiwanese fishermen who "find it hard to find a wife."

The syndicate would arrange an "inspection trip" to the Philippines for the Taiwanese bride-seekers to pick the women of their choice, Cuenco said.

"These women are displayed like merchandise. They were not given information about their would-be partners before their marriage to them, which was usually done before their trip to Taiwan," he said.

Cuenco said some of the victims who were still in Taiwan have filed complaints of physical and emotional abuse against their Taiwanese husbands.

But, he said, the victims were being ordered by the Taiwanese men not to complain because they have been "bought from their families" back home.

Naia now . . .

(From page A19)

Marquez said they will close down the NAIA and hold a public auction once the Court of Appeals junks the airport officials' motion applying for exemption from land taxes.

Marquez also revealed that the departments of Justice and Finance have issued favorable replies to an inquiry of the Parañaque local government regarding the issue.

The mayor said the two departments believed that the Naia must settle its land taxes.

"We will wait for the decision of the CA and I believe it would be favorable to the city government because the Local Government Code expressly provides for it," Marquez said.

METROBRIEFS

Chinese acquitted

CHINESE nationals Chua Kien and Wu Wex were acquitted of charges of drug trafficking after Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Monina Zenarosa dismissed the case against them. In a seven-page decision, Judge Zenarosa said the National Bureau of Investigation failed to present sufficient evidence establishing the guilt of the accused. Chua and Wu were arrested on Sept. 22, 1999 during an alleged buy-bust operation of agents of the NBI. Zenarosa described the operation as a "haphazard venture" and said the "courts must be extra vigilant in trying drug charges lest an innocent person is made to suffer unusually severe penalties for drug offenses." Convicted drug traffickers face a penalty of death by lethal injection. *Agnes E. Donato*

Tighter security

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday ordered police to tighten security in theaters, malls, churches and other public places in preparation for the Christmas season, which traditionally also shows a rise in crime. On Monday, the Cherry Foodarama Supermarket on Shaw Boulevard was robbed of about P1.1 million, police said. Owner Tan To, 89, told police he discovered the robbery when he opened his office on Tuesday and found that his safe had been forcibly opened. But police said the robbery could be an inside job. Cherry Foodarama is located near the headquarters of the Mandaluyong City police Special Weapons and Tactics team. *Nelson Forte Flores*

Hostage

SUSPECT James Kenneth Pedro, 23, was trying to escape an angry mob on Tuesday after he allegedly stabbed Boyet de Guzman when he took hostage Ramon Santos, 5, son of Barangay Chair Ramoncito Santos in Concepcion, Malabon City, police said. But Pedro released the boy unharmed 40 minutes later after residents and the boy's father managed to persuade him to surrender to authorities. Pedro is detained at the Malabon City Jail and facing charges of frustrated homicide and serious illegal detention. ***Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

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9	PRINCESS DIARIES
10	13 DAYS
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12	NAKED NIGHT

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2	MANANABAS
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4	LEGALLY BLONDE
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2	DOS EKIS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE HOLE
2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	13 DAYS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCARY MOVIE
2	MANANABAS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	DOS EKIS
4 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	MANANABAS
5	HULI SA AKTO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	MANANABAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	13 DAYS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MANO MANO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	EXTREME FORCE
2	THE HOLE
3	13 DAYS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HULI SA AKTO
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	MANANABAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NAKED NIGHT
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	HULI SA AKTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	DOS EKIS
3	
4 (DTS ES)	MANANABAS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
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E-Mail: premierethx@asia.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 788-3152 to 56
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

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2	TRAINING DAY
3	THE BODY
4	13 DAYS
5	DOS EKIS
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7	TOWN & COUNTRY
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10	LEGALLY BLONDE

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	TRAINING DAY
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DOS EKIS
4	THE BODY
5	DOS EKIS
6	INVISIBLE CIRCUS
7	LEGALLY BLONDE

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	TRAINING DAY
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	TRAINING DAY
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	RESERVE
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	DOS EKIS

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	AMERICAN PIE2

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	13 DAYS
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	HEARTBREAKER
5	SISID
6	PRINCESS DIARIES

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM ... FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE BODY
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-5	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-6	LEGALLY BLONDE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO
CINEMA-2	LARUANG BUHAY
CINEMA-4	AKO ANG LALAGOT

Fil-Am . . .

(From page A22)

maraderie he shared with the Fil-Am actors. "*Saludo ako sa professionalism nila.* When the call time was 6 a.m., they were ready at 5:30 a.m. And they all looked out for each other. Even when they were not part of the cast, some Fil-Am actors came to the shooting just to give moral support to their friends who were in the film.

"They are so united. I wish all our actors here were as professional and united. Enough of the petty quarrels, the intrigues, the jealousy."

You said it, Pipo. It's time to get back to the business of presenting a damn good show.

"The Debut" leaves us with some life-altering lessons. Pipo cites one: "Follow your dreams. You may not always be right but you learn a lot in the process. Parents must realize that they can police their children only up to a certain point. Children want to gamble with their lives. Just let them be. If you have raised them well, you have nothing to worry about. They will eventually make the right choices."

Follow your parents or follow your dreams? That's one tough decision we all have to make, but it's comforting to know that forgiveness is one of the strongest points of parents.

I should know. I've given my mom enough practice all these years. As a family friend, Pipo knows this too well. Kudos to you, Pipo! Remember your *kumareng* "Dollywood" when Hollywood beckons.

Paolo-Maxine

THE **Paolo Bediones-Maxine** "living in" controversy lives on. The more they deny, the more they lie? Read on.

"Hi, Dolly!

"I read **Jacob Fernandez**'s reaction to your story about Paolo Bediones and Maxine. Of course, I understand that he is their manager and it's expected of him to protect his stars.

"First, we recall we saw Maxine with her female *alalays* (about three of them) that night. They hailed cabs and said their good-byes to Maxine. Where was Jacob? That was the scene we saw when we arrived at the village.

"On my way out (I don't live there, my cousins do), I saw Maxine texting in the garage. Yeah, right, maybe this Jacob was inside playing billiards but the house looked empty.

"Second, Paolo's house is STILL undergoing renovation. I go there weekly and see all the mess in front of his house. There are paint cans, sand bags, carpenters, etc.

Yeah, right . . . *baka nga* it's already fixed inside.

"What's really funny is that the whole village knows Maxine stays there. All my cousins' maids know who she is. Paolo's driver tells people *daw* that it's his "sister" who lives with him. You can also ask the guards but, of course, I'm sure they won't tell you if they know you're from media.

"Just came from there last night and true enough, her car was there again. I can even give you her plate #: THV-149. Was Jacob with them again playing billiards inside? I'm sure.

Why would they (showbiz people) lie? You know, if this Jacob had said that Maxine pays for her stay, shares the rent or something (since I hear she's from Canada), maybe that would be more realistic. But to lie is sickening.

"*Sayang*, my cousins and I liked Paolo *pa naman* . . . but after this—*huwag na!* If he prods show biz stars to admit stories on "S-Files," then why should he deny this thing about Maxine?

For feedback: wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

SkyCable, Home yank out 10 Star TV channels due to ₱160-M debt

By Leah Salterio

WHEN the National Basketball Association opens its new season first week of November, thousands of cable subscribers will not see the much-awaited return of basketball superstar Michael Jordan, who will play again for the Washington Wizards.

The pullout of 10 Star TV channels from SkyCable and Home includes the popular sports channel ESPN, where the NBA games are seen live by Filipino viewers.

Unless SkyCable and Home Cable can settle its outstanding debt of $3.1 million or P160 million to Star TV, the latter will not bring back its services to the two huge cable companies which recently merged.

At 2 p.m. on Oct. 19, Friday, Star TV cut its 10-channel feed to both SkyCable and Home. The other channels that Star TV carries include Fox News, Channel [V], National Geographic, Star World, Star Movies, Star Sports, Star Mandarin, Viva Cinema and Phoenix.

David P. Ilagan, Star TV vice president for distribution, told the Inquirer the contract of SkyCable and Home with Star TV expired in April.

"Since then, we have been working on a month-to-month basis with them," Ilagan explained. "We have been negotiating practically for six months. The amount they owe us dates back to December last year. It was more before they paid."

Ilagan said Star TV set deadlines for SkyCable and Home before totally cutting off the channel feed. On Oct. 4, National Geographic and Star Sports were the first channels removed from the service of the two cable companies.

Ilagan said SkyCable and Home gave word to them that the debt could be settled next year yet.

"We were told the business plan between the merged companies is not ready yet," Ilagan said. "Only then can they negotiate a settlement."

After the pullout, the Star TV website was flooded by complaints and queries from subscribers.

"Most of them want to shift to Destiny Cable, but they want an assurance that we have a secure contract with Destiny," Ilagan said.

SkyCable, however, does not carry other Star TV channels like Star Movies and Fox News.

"Two years ago, they decided not to air some of our channels because they claimed that we raised our fees by 400 percent," Ilagan disclosed. "That's not true. In fact, we even lowered the fees."

Ilagan believes SkyCable refused to carry Star Movies because it has an exclusive all-movie channel, Cinemax, the sister channel of HBO.

Fox News, meanwhile, is viewed as competition to CNN, he said.

"We even offered Fox News to them for free but they didn't like it," Ilagan said. "Recently, we forged a deal with NBN Channel 4 to air four hours of Fox News reports on free TV."

This is not the first time that premium cable channels pulled out from SkyCable. Discovery, ESPN and HBO previously cut their ties with SkyCable, but also resumed airing on the network after renegotiations.

"Our doors are always open if SkyCable and Home want to come back and renegotiate," Ilagan said. "But first, they have to settle their outstanding debt."

Through thick and thin

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode featured **Aiko Melendez**'s first TV dramatic performance in a long time. She was cast together with **Carmina Villarroel**, and they played best friends who looked out for each other through thick and thin.

Actually, "thick and thin" became the episode's defining caption in more ways than one, because Aiko was plump and Carmina looked gaunt.

More contrasts were stipulated by the script: Aiko's character loved her family, while Carmina scorned her mother because she had flitted from one man to another and had neglected her.

Aiko relied heavily on her brother for help and support in her small catering business, so when he died, she became very insecure. That's why, when a young man (**Michael Rivero**) came into her life and offered to help her, she opened herself up to him much too quickly.

Carmina tried to warn her friend about Michael, but Aiko refused to listen to her—love is blind, deaf and dumb!

Only after he started beating her up and stealing valuables to support his drug habit did Aiko finally realize that she had allowed a vicious snake into her life.

Incredibly, the two young women didn't seek any help in dealing with the evil and dangerous Michael. After a series of violent encounter, however, they were able to dispose of him.

Aiko thanked Carmina for opening her eyes to the danger of loving too quickly. To repay the favor, she found a way to get Carmina to reconcile with her mother.

This episode about friendship had its telling emotional moments. After a while, however, pathos turned to bathos due to the drama's generally unrelieved progression of crying scenes.

Also, the story unfolded too slowly, and viewers' attention sometimes wandered. In addition there was too much verbalizing, with the lead characters talking a blue streak as they described their thoughts and feelings in excessive detail. And the two female protagonists' helplessness in the face of danger was irritating rather than touching.

In terms of performance, both Aiko and Carmina came up with heartfelt portrayals, and the bond between them made them credible in their roles as best friends.

But the fact that their crying jags were made to come one after another dulled their affective power. All too soon, what promised to be an insightful dramatization of a deep and abiding friendship became merely a melodrama with occasional psycho-thriller twists and turns—not the sort of material for which Aiko waited so long to make her dramatic comeback on TV.

As for Carmina, she really must regain some of the weight she's lost. We know that it's fashionable to look slim and trim on TV, but looking gaunt is something else.

"Ang Hinaharap 2001"

ON the last week of October, "Ang Hinaharap 2001" will culminate in a star-studded telethon on Studio 23.

ABS-CBN's breast cancer awareness campaign is expected to raise P5M for cancer research specifically targeted at Filipino women.

The campaign seeks to create greater awareness about breast cancer's causes, symptoms, cures, and most importantly, its prevention. Filipinas are the second highest in breast cancer incidence for the whole of Asia, so there is grave cause for concern.

Dexter goes global

ON Nov. 18, the Cartoon Network will hold a 12-hour Dexter marathon, screening the most popular episodes selected by viewers worldwide, culminating in the telecast of two new episodes of the popular 'toon series.

Ongoing until Nov. 11, the Cartoon Network will broadcast 50 Dexter episodes for viewers to choose from. It will also screen the one-hour movie "Dexter's Ego Trip" on Nov. 17.

"Dexter's Laboratory" is an innovative 30-minute series on the life of a boy genius who creates fantastic inventions in his huge bedroom laboratory, despite the interference of his pesky big sister Dee Dee.

Fil-Am movie has life-altering lessons

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

TIRSO Cruz III is overwhelmed by the favorable reviews that the American press gave him and the cast of their Fil-American movie, "The Debut."

"It gives you a different kind of high when foreigners notice your craft," he gushes. "It's not just for me. I did my best."

What makes the movie stand out?

"I must say it's the culture," he says. "We show them the *ugaling Pinoy* in an American setting which many Fil-Ams can relate to. It shows the difference between a Pinoy born here and raised in the States and a Pinoy who has been in the US since birth.

"The story takes place all in one night during the debut of my daughter in the movie, and the morning after. There are many emotional highlights."

What also makes "The Debut" etched in his memory is the ca-

FIL-AM/ A21

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THE BODY - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

"KATE HUDSON SHINES!"
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam

AYALA CINEMAS

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Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

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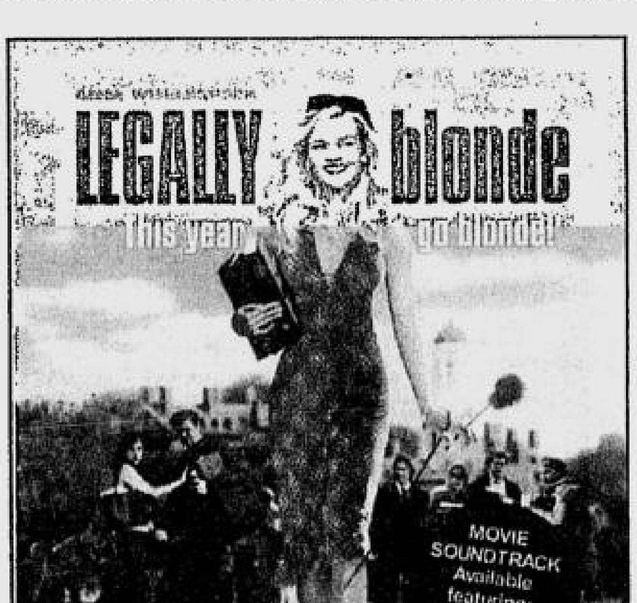

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Gov't, Tan near debt swap deal on PNB

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

AFTER six months of negotiations, taipan Lucio Tan has agreed in principle to convert portion of the P25 billion in emergency loans extended by the government to Philippine National Bank into equity at a conversion price of P40 per share.

Three well-placed INQUIRER sources confirmed that the taipan had agreed to the government's conversion price for a portion of the emergency loans—P15 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and P10 billion from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. However, they did not disclose the extent of the loan that would be converted into government equity.

The government is expecting to sign a deal with Tan in early November, the sources said.

PNB reduced its par value from P60 to P40 per share but this has yet to be approved by the bank's stockholders.

An agreement with Tan will pave the way for the re-nationalization or reverse privatization of the bank as this will raise the government's stake in PNB, which stands at 16 percent, and dilute that of Tan, who presently controls 67 percent of the bank.

A source said Tan did not impose any condition when he agreed (in principle) to the conversion price. "There was no hidden agenda. He agreed because he has no other choice, the bank is already suffering," said the source.

Government representatives to the negotiations, led by PDIC and concurrent PNB chair Norberto Nazareno, are working out with Tan's lawyers an exit mechanism for both groups when they decide to get out of the bank in the future.

"We are working on a general agreement for a joint sale of the holdings of the government and Tan," a source said adding that Tan was also keen on getting out of the bank in the future.

Nazareno, however, refused to confirm that the taipan had agreed to the proposed debt-to-equity conversion.

Of the P10 billion in loans extended by PDIC, portion will be converted into equity while some will be used to pay government obligations to PNB earlier placed at P13 billion.

A portion of the P15 billion in loans from the central bank will also be used to retire government obligations to PNB. The rest will be restructured and will form part of the bank's funds for rehabilitation.

Also being threshed out by both parties, said a source, is the issue on management control.

As of the second quarter, the bank posted P3.92 billion in net loss despite a P10-billion capital infusion by the taipan in October last year. Tan infused fresh capital into the bank to stop its hemorrhage and to allow it to break even this year. This, however, diluted the government's share in the bank from 30.4 percent to 16 percent.

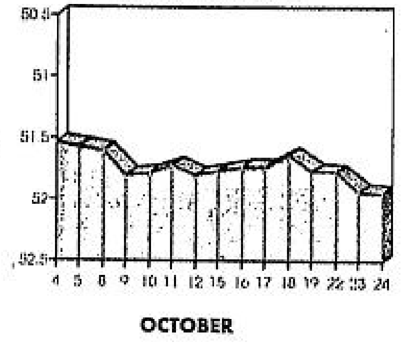
A government source said that if plans push through, the government and Tan would likely end up holding a 40-percent stake each with the remaining 20 percent to be held by other stockholders and the public.

The government has been negotiating with Tan since May but the taipan had previously refused to give in to the government's conversion price offer.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



OCTOBER

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

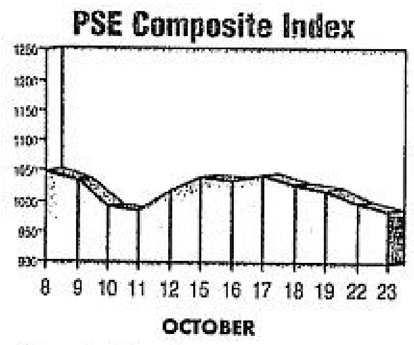
P51.945 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 24, 2001

Y122.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 24, 2001

GOLD:$276.10/276.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 24, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



OCTOBER

(See stock market story on Page B4)

Keilco seen bidding for Napocor

KEPCO Ilijan Corp., operator of the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan gas-fired power plant, has expressed interest in participating in the upcoming sale of National Power Corp.'s assets.

Keilco vice president Song-Chang Hyun said in an interview last week that Keilco was keen on joining the bidding for Napocor's power plants slated for auction early next year.

"However, the final decision would be made when we have seen the implementing rules of the (Electric Power Industry Reform Act)," the official said.

"The regulations of the power law would spell out the rules of the game of Napocor's privatization and Keilco needs to know these before it could make any move," he said.

Asked which assets they were interested in, he said: "We are looking at the generating assets in general. We will choose when we are done with our evaluation."

Sugar workers get P11M in bonus

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Amelioration bonus worth P11.1 million were distributed to 19,700 sugar workers in Central Luzon starting September, the Department of Labor and Employment said on Tuesday.

The bonus was derived from the lien of 2.2 million bags of sugar milled by the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) and Wescor in Tarlac as well as Basecom Inc. in Pampanga during sugar crop year 2000-2001, DOLE regional director Ana Dione said.

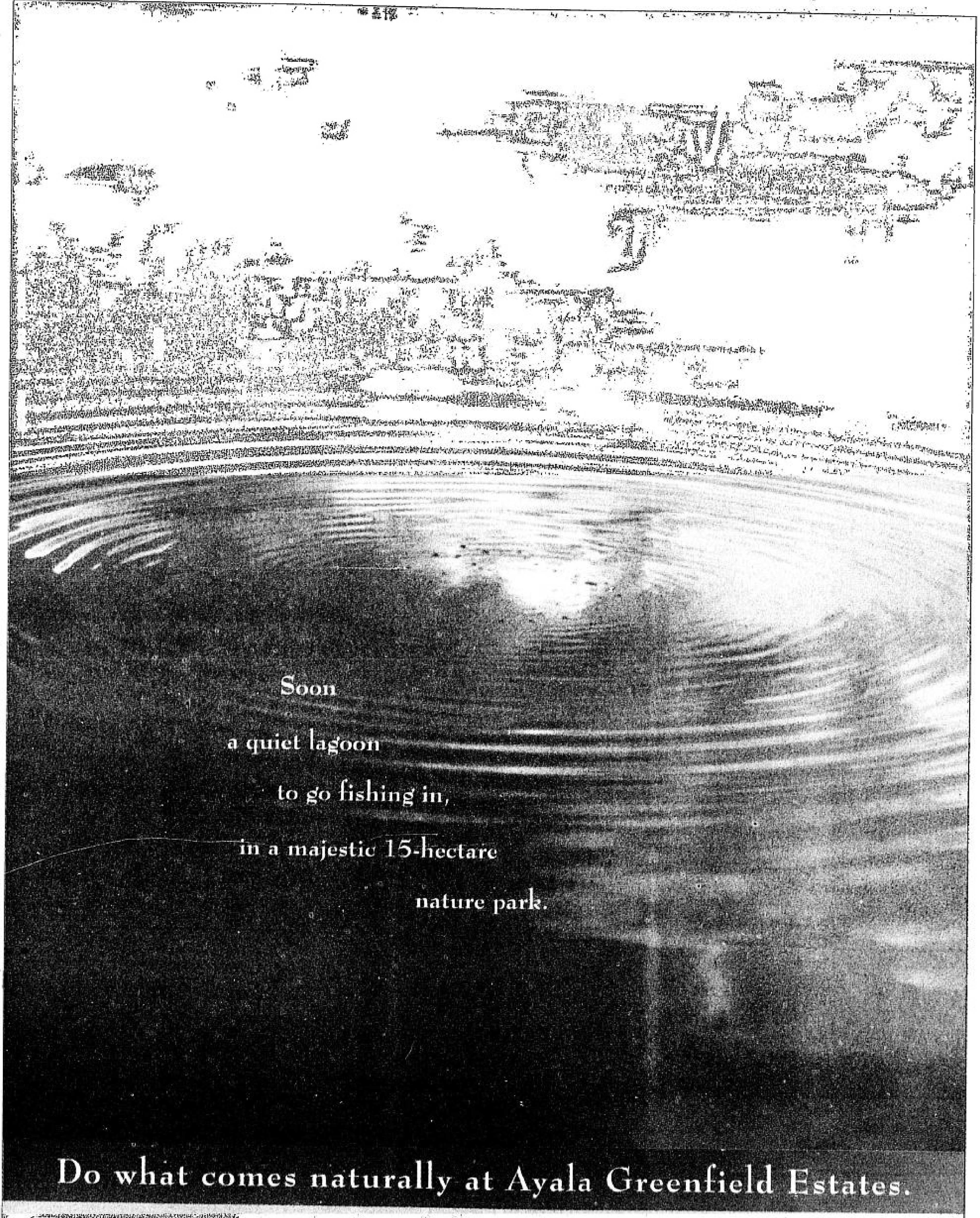
The CAT, according to her, paid its 13,134 workers P7.8 million; Basecom, P2.8 million to 4,336 workers; and Wescor P500,000 to 2,237 workers.

Dione said the DOLE also paid P718,000 in maternity benefits to 359 women sugar workers and P363,000 in death benefits to 51 workers.

The bonus and the benefits were required under the Sugar Amelioration Program, she added.

In Pampanga, the sugar season began last Oct. 18. Some 800 planters began unloading truckloads of freshly cut canes to Basecom, indicating renewed confidence in the milling firm that last September was rocked by a controversy involving the alleged illegal withdrawal of P52 million worth of raw sugar and molasses.

Hundreds of planters filled the grounds of the 80-year-old mill of the Pampanga Sugar Development Corp. (Pasudeco) which Basecom operates, airing expectations of higher yield and improved prices. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



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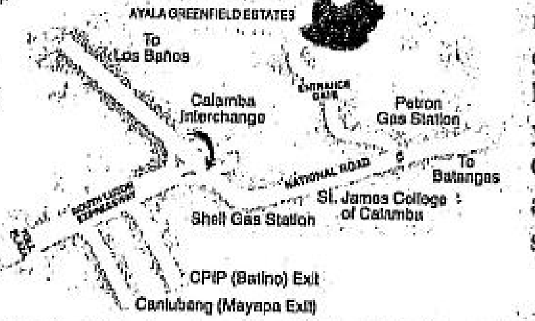

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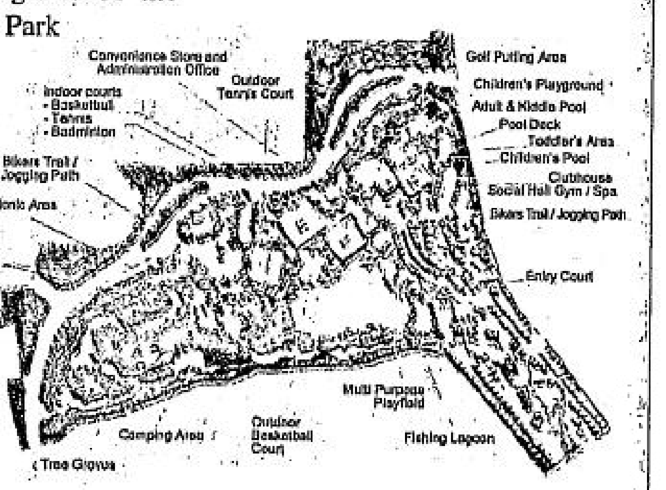

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BOI to go after delinquent automakers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments will start collecting soon on the unpaid duties of local vehicle assemblers, specifically Auto Prominence Corp. and Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., that failed to comply with their commitment to advance into full automotive assembly operations.

APC and NARC were allowed to import semi-knocked down units of Volkswagen, Audi and Alfa Romeo vehicles (for APC) and Chrysler models (for NARC) at preferred duties on condition that they shift to the assembly of completely knocked down units within 18 months after their first import shipment.

A BOI source said that APC and NARC had fully utilized their licenses to import SKD units at the preferred rate of 3 percent to 7 percent, the same as the rate charged on CKD imports. They later obtained an extension under the Estrada administration despite the BOI's objection. The source said the BOI was not inclined to give another extension, considering that the assemblers have had ample time. Both companies were not able to advance into full CKD assembly.

The government is expected to collect millions of pesos in unpaid duties from APC and NARC representing the difference between the standard 30-percent duty on SKD units and the 3-percent to 7-percent duty on CKD that the assemblers paid for their SKD imports.

Both APC and NARC went through rough roads in their operations in the past years due to weak market that was exacerbated by the Asian financial crisis.

APC, formerly known as Proton Pilipinas, racked up P486 million in debts. APC has stopped selling Proton and Alfa Romeo and it has trimmed down its portfolio to fewer models of Volkswagen and Audi.

NARC is a partner of Daimler-Chrysler which was granted the license to import 500 SKD packs from February 1999 to August 2000 and applied last year for an additional 7,000 SKD units of Chrysler up to 2003.

The BOI has discontinued SKD imports a few years ago because it felt that the market has already matured and has been adequately served by existing players. SKD imports are meant to entice assemblers to come into the Philippine market, particularly during the late 1980s when there were only two assemblers.

TCC warned against blocking RP cement export to Taiwan

A MEMBER of the House Committee on Trade and Industry has cautioned Taiwan Cement Corp. against blocking Philippine cement exports to Taiwan even as its local unit continues to lead the assault against Filipino cement manufacturers by dumping Taiwanese cement into the country.

"I find it unfortunate and unfair that TCC appears to have used underhanded means to protect itself from Philippine competition," said Rep. Oscar Moreno, chair of the economic affairs committee and vice chair of the ways and means and justice committees.

"It took advantage of the rules when it sought refuge in its own version of our safeguard measures."

TCC led four other Taiwanese companies in lodging an anti-dumping complaint against the Philippines and South Korea before Taiwan's International Trade Commission and its Ministry of Finance. In their complaint, the Taiwanese firms alleged that the entry of Philippine and South Korean cement into Taiwan had injured the Taiwanese cement industry, and should thus be slapped a 65-percent punitive tariff for a five-year period.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, TCC Phils. also led other cement importers in securing a court injunction against a safeguard application filed by the local cement producers with the Department of Trade and Industry. In its petition, the local cement industry had sought a 50-percent provisional tariff on the landed cost of imported cement, which has gobbled up a huge chunk of the domestic cement market and depressed sales of locally-made cement.

GOINGS-ON

Peac acquires freighter aircraft

PACIFIC East Cargo Airlines, a Filipino-owned all-cargo international carrier, recently signed a lease agreement with MNG Airlines that allows Peac to use the latter's Airbus A300-B4 freighter for regional operations.

The deal was signed on Oct. 17 by Peac managing director Joselito D. Lontok and MNG Airlines managing director Yavucz Cizmeci.

Peac will initially deploy the freighter, which has a capacity of 40 tons, to service the airline's Manila-Hong Kong route starting Dec. 1, 2001.

The lease of the A300-B4 forms part of Peac's renewed thrust to expand its route network and play an active role in the national effort to turn the country into a cost-effective cargo hub in the Asia Pacific region.

UnionBank a sound bank

UNIONBANK is the only Philippine bank to make it to the world's 25 soundest banks listing. In the July 2001 issue of "The Banker," a publication of the Financial Times Ltd. of London, UnionBank ranked No. 19 in the category of `soundness' with a capital-to-assets ratio of 23.16 percent. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the bank was included in the list.

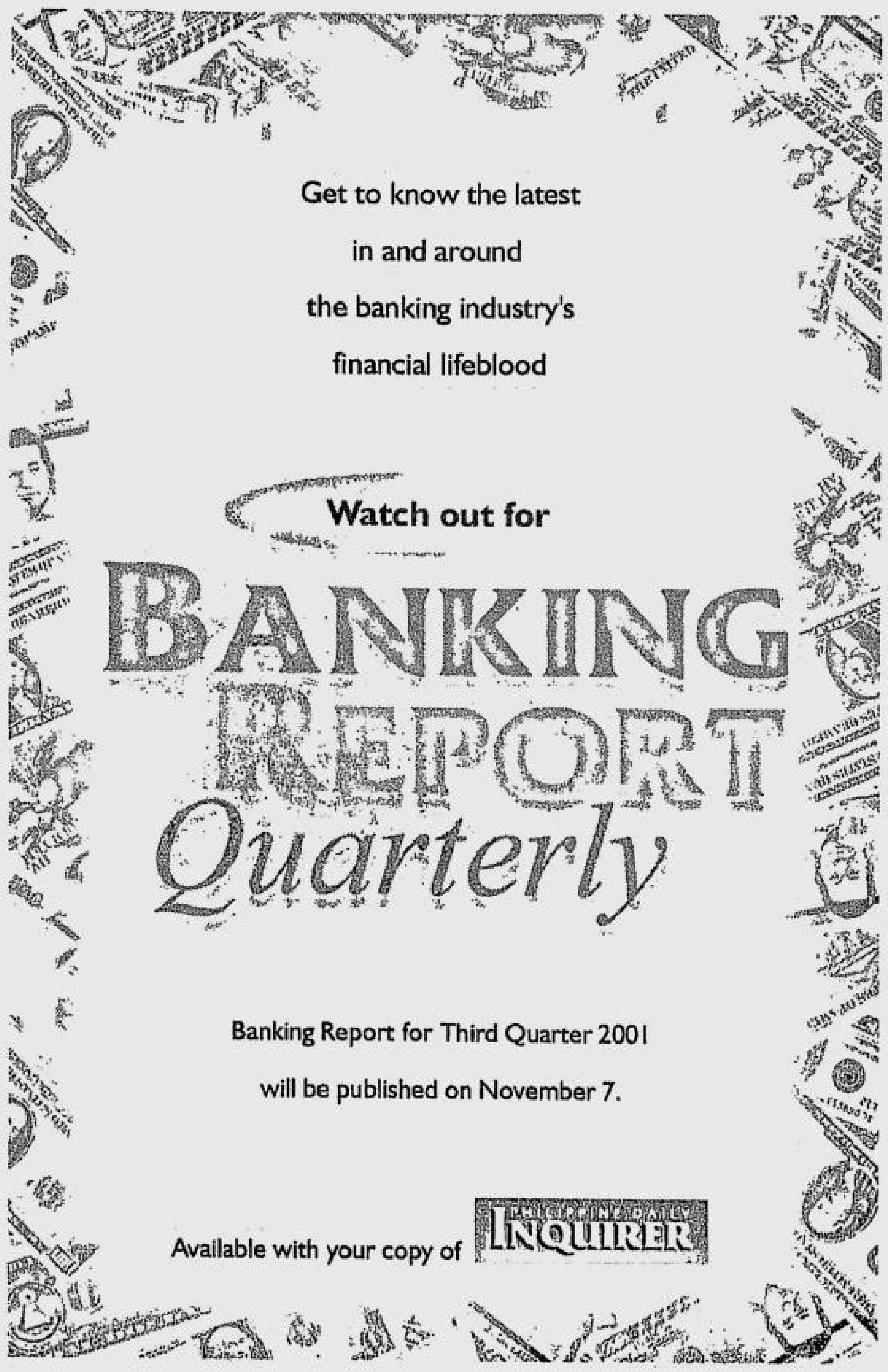
In 1998, the bank ranked No. 22 with a capital-to-assets ratio of 16.06 percent; No. 16 in 1999 with a capital-to-assets ratio of 21.33 percent; and No. 20 with a capital-to-assets ratio of 21.37 percent in 2000.

Banks in the United States, United Kingdom and Middle East dominate the top 25 listing.

T-bonds in Banco de Oro

BDO CAPITAL & Investment Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, has been selected as one of the leading selling agents for the reissuance of the government's Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs). From this tranche, the government expects to raise around P50 billion.

The RTB is an attractive investment outlet for Filipinos seeking safe, risk-free, high-earning and affordable savings instrument. These investment instruments are direct and unconditional obligation on the government, thus are safe. RTBs are also risk-free since payment is guaranteed by the government.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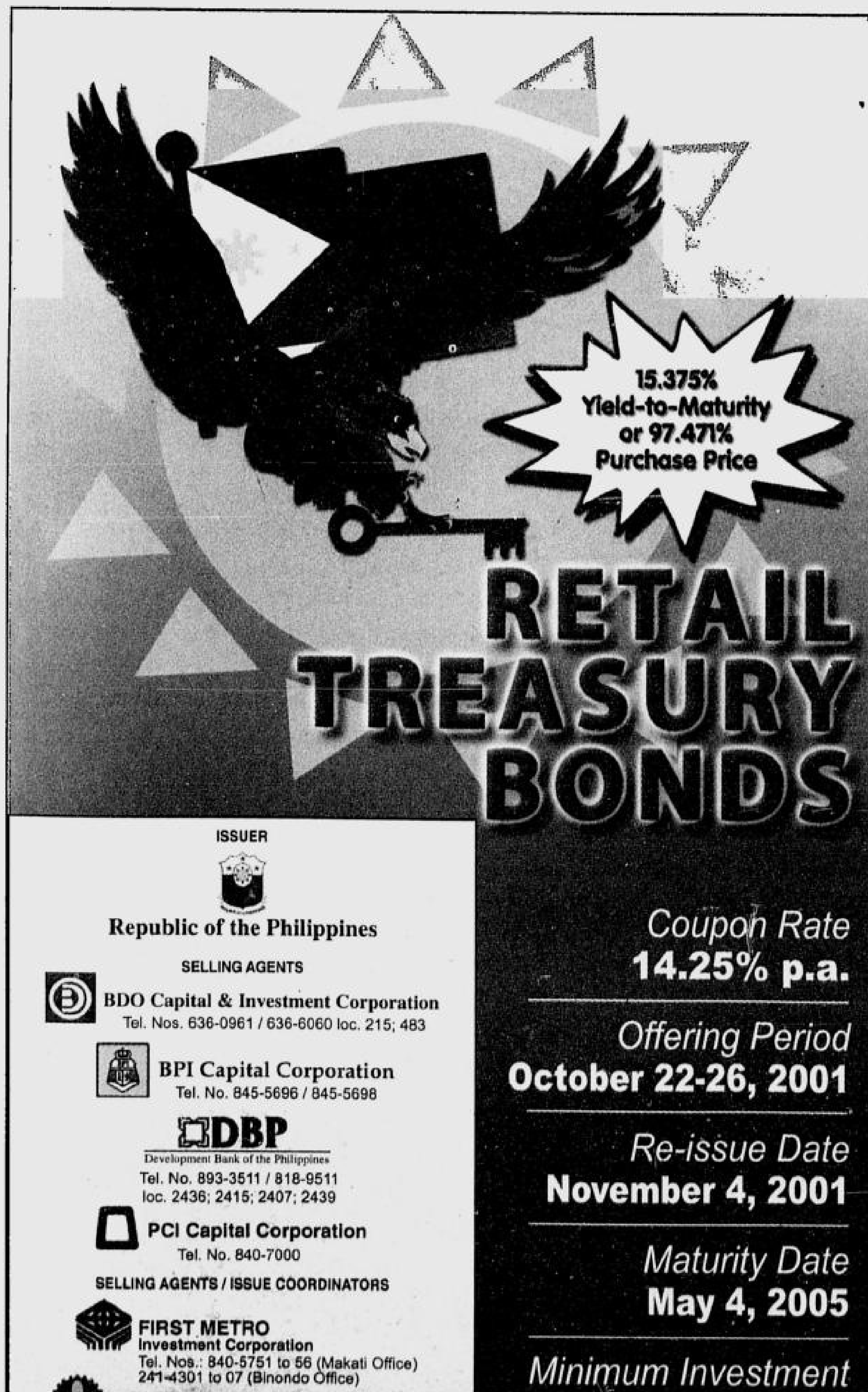
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Re-issue Date
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Maturity Date
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Minimum Investment
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2. Why should an investor invest in RTBs?
Because the RTBs are issued by the Republic of the Philippines, they are risk free (payment guaranteed), high yielding, tradeable and affordable.

3. Who can purchase RTBs?
Any investor who has at least PhP5,000.00 can purchase RTBs.

4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. Additional requirements for institutional investors are copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures.

5. After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?
Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

6. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?
Because they are the direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines, RTBs are **RISK FREE** (payment guaranteed).

7. What is an investor s proof of ownership?
The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).

8. Where can an investor purchase RTBs?
An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

Planned tax system seen to raise ₱30B for gov't

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT stands to generate P30 billion in additional revenues from the proposed changes in the tax structure for individuals and businesses, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

The new tax measures were contained in a tax reform proposal submitted recently by the Department of Finance to Congress for deliberation and approval. It seeks to, among others, cut by more than half the tax rate imposed on corporations and the application of the same rate on self-employed individuals.

But while individual tax payers are, in general, happy with the proposed tax structure, big businesses are opposing the change saying the new system, despite the rate cut, will only lead to higher taxes because the 15 percent will be applied on gross income. At present, corporations pay 15 percent tax on their net income.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, said the shift in the tax system from that based on net income to that computed on the gross income would mean higher taxes to be paid by businesses.

"There is no compelling reason to go into this gross modified tax scheme. Not now when businesses are already suffering," said Luz in a phone interview.

The proposed change in the corporate income tax system will raise P45 billion, which is more than enough to offset P15 billion in expected losses arising from the lower taxes to be imposed on individual earners.

A ranking DOF official said the government wanted Congress to disallow tax deductions related to fringe benefits; entertainment, transportation and representation expenses; travel expenses; interest expense on loans from an affiliate financial institution; taxes and licenses; casualty losses and charges, fines, and penalties

The government is open to consider as deductible cost overhead expenses such as salaries and wages as well as pension fund contributions.

Other items that may be allowed for deduction include marketing and selling expenses, including advertising, and research and development expenses.

"There are problems with the present system. Some companies may be overstating their deductions while they tend to understate their earnings. What the government should do is to put caps on the deduction to plug the loopholes," said Luz.

Without going into a new system, the MBC official said the government could also address the practice of understating revenues by requiring banks to lend only to companies that could produce a financial statement that was submitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Some companies under declare their earnings when reporting to the BIR and bloat their figures when borrowing from the bank.

Luz said the measure being proposed by the government might raise its revenue collection but it would not be equitable to all.

Camacho said the new measure would simplify the tax system, lower the tax rate and consequently widen the tax base.

Under the plan, self-employed individuals who pay income taxes based on their individual income brackets will have to pay the same rates imposed on the corporations.

BSP taps JP Morgan for new bond float

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has tapped JP Morgan Chase to handle a $250-million bond float which is hoped to boost the country's dollar reserves.

"We have unofficially mandated JP Morgan Chase to see if it can raise $250 million for us at a certain rate," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura. He, however, refused to divulge the BSP's preferred pricing.

Market sources said that the four-year bonds would offer a yield of 9-percent coupon rate, an all-in price including the benchmark London Interbank Offered Rate or Libor.

A trader from a local bank said a central bank borrowing was expected to be received well by the market. With a 9-percent coupon rate, the borrowing will pay a higher yield compared to placements in dollar deposits that yield only about 2 percent yearly.

"The market can handle another bond float because it has adequate liquidity," said a trader from a foreign bank.

JP Morgan's offer was chosen over those of Citibank N.A., Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg.

Buenaventura said the central bank would like to beef up the country's gross international reserves to make sure that it would go beyond the psychological level of $14 billion.

As of September, the dollar reserves stood at $14.5 billion, up by some $300 million after the BSP raised about $350 million from short-term financing and the revaluation of the price of gold.

Buenaventura said the BSP borrowing would push through even if the national government would be able to raise sufficient external funds to finance its deficit next year.

The national government has so far finalized at least $850 million in fresh funds for next year and another borrowing worth $300 million has been lined up.

"We'd like to take a more cautious stance because there are too many unknowns. We would like to build up our reserves and play it safe," said the governor.

The country's external payments deficit stood at $917 million as of July. This level reflects the deterioration in the country's export receipts as well as the continued decline in capital and financial accounts brought about by the slowdown in the inflow of portfolio and direct investments.

The level of reserves has been declining since the start of the year from about $15 billion as of end-December. BSP officials expressed fears that the GIR might drop to $13 billion if export receipts would continue to decline.

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3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	300,000
*19 MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	15,000,000	
*20. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,700,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	
23 METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24 METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
27 ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
28 ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
*32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,800,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	800,000	
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
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Stocks set new 10-year low on reports of military coup

By Doris C. Dumlao

A STRING of depressing domestic news, including talks of a military coup and dismal corporate results, pulled down local stocks to a new 10-year low yesterday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.9 percent to close at 979.34, breaking the 980 technical support level. The previous low was 977.1 points on Oct. 10, 1991.

"People are cautious. They're discounting the earnings for the third and fourth quarter because it doesn't look good," said Allan Araullo of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Dealers said some investors were unsettled by a report, firmly denied by the government, that former allies were plotting to destabilize the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Macapagal sparked rumors of destabilization when she returned to the Philippines before dawn Sunday—hours ahead of schedule—from an Asia-Pacific economic summit in Shanghai.

Police and military officials, however, dismissed as baseless a report that certain former allies of the President were plotting to destabilize the government.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said coup rumors were "preposterous" and were the handiwork of the political opposition to distract the government amid a global scare on terrorism.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said, however, that authorities were monitoring the activities of an obscure armed group that could be plotting against the Macapagal administration.

The 50-member group calling itself the Urban Poor Liberation Front received "paramilitary training" from a right-wing Army colonel about two months ago, Golez told a news conference.

Authorities spoke to the colonel after he trained the group near a watershed north of Manila, said Golez, who sought to downplay the incident.

"These are just small groups that could not even muster a hundred members," he said, adding no arrest had been made.

He said the group stopped training "after failing to muster enough numbers," and that the unnamed colonel remained in military service, but he warned, "If he continues in his disoriented ways, he will face sanctions."

"We're not in line with the rest of the world because of local factors like peace and order and politics," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc.

The local bourse was yesterday's worst performer among stock markets in Asia.

"We're not seeing the same type of technical rebound other Asian bourses are seeing," said AB Capital Securities Jose Vistan, noting the Philippines had been ranked as one of the countries most affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The United States is the Philippines' biggest export market.

Vistan said domestic political concerns also weighed on the market.

"We are also experiencing this case of political instability, which seems to be a never-ending story," said Vistan. "This latest coup report is another chapter in this never-ending story."

"All the news that are coming out are pessimistic, and the market is very vulnerable to negative developments," ATR Kim Eng Securities Corp. head of research Luz Lorenzo said.

Investors continued to stay out of the market, with value turnover remaining thin at only P246.99 million.

One bright spot came from the mining sector, which had been rallying on reports that the United States' ongoing war against terrorist groups in the Middle East would fuel demand for gold and other precious metals. The mining index rose 3.74 percent.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands, yesterday's most actively traded stock, shed P1 to close at P41 on concerns about its exposure to battery maker Ramcar Inc., which owes about P8 billion.

Eagle Equities' Roxas said investors were shaken by BPI's exposure to Ramcar, as they had assumed that the bank's conservative attitude toward lending had made it immune to bad loans.

"They are not invulnerable after all," Roxas said.

Roxas expressed optimism that the oversold stock market would likely get some relief very soon. *With a report from AFP and AP*

Capwire says debt delay to eat into revenues

By Abigail L. Ho

CAPITOL Wireless Inc. said yesterday that it stood to lose around 20 percent of its revenues for fiscal year 2002 should its problem with its creditors drag on.

In an interview, Capwire chief operating officer Maureen Santiago said the telecommunications firm had not had any new clients this month.

"If we don't sign with anybody within October and November, we won't be signing with anyone at all before the year ends," she said.

Most companies freeze their budgets in December. Santiago said hardly any company forged new contracts during that month.

She added that some of the company's would-be clients pulled out at the last minute when reports came out that its creditors filed a motion in court for it to be put under receivership.

Capwire earlier proposed to its creditors revised restructure terms for almost P1 billion worth of debts. It included a longer grace period and reduced interest payments due to harsh economic conditions.

Its creditors disagreed with the restructure terms, and the case was brought to the Makati Regional Trial Court, where its creditors filed a motion for Capwire to be put under receivership.

The telecommunications firm opposed this motion and asked the court to appoint a "commissioner" instead. The commissioner will oversee the company's operations for 45 days to confirm the validity of its call for revised restructure terms.

In the opposition it filed on Oct. 17, Capwire said the court should deny its creditors' motion because it was unable "to move forward with the restructuring agreement stemming from circumstance beyond its control."

It also argued that the banks' motion for the company to be put under receivership was "improper and, at best, premature" as no Securities and Exchange Commission rules applied to Capwire's situation.

NSC investors told to put up P1-B bond

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AN EVALUATION committee led by the Department of Trade and Industry has retained the P1-billion deposit requirement on prospective investors keen on operating National Steel Corp.'s facilities on lease.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the amount was intended to prove that a proponent had adequate financial capability to sustain the financial requirements of the rehabilitation and interim operation, upgrade and maintenance of NSC's facilities in Iligan.

Apart from the P500-million cash deposit and P500-million guarantee bond representing a year's lease payments and six months for utilities, prospective bidders for NSC's lease contract will have to have a net worth sufficient to finance requirements of the project.

They must also present a letter testimonial from reputable banks attesting to their good financial standing, and they are required to have no unpaid liabilities to NSC.

All bidders must have a technical capability to operate flat steel rolling mills or billet production and experts that have at least five years experience in the business.

Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. president Alexander Delmo earlier accused Roxas of inserting an unreasonable requirement in the form of a P1-billion cash and guarantee bond that was grossly disproportional to the scope of the supposed lease undertaking and discriminatory to Filipino bidders.

The auction was moved to today from Tuesday to allow Allengoal to review the TOR.

Roxas stressed that the trade department, Securities and Exchange Commission, NSC liquidator, creditor banks and Hottick Investment-Renong Bhd unanimously approved the terms of reference adopted by the committee.

Under these terms, each investor should submit an offer price, including any up front cash payment, monthly rentals and any profit sharing arrangement, and show the basis and assumptions from the offer.

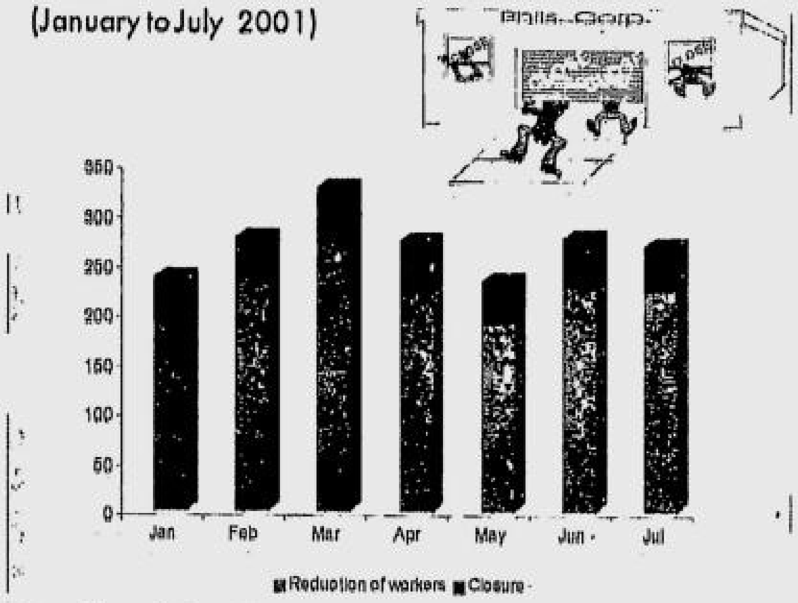
The committee would assess the offers and its choice of lease contractor would be endorsed to the SEC and NSC liquidator for final approval.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Establishment closure & retrenchment

(January to July 2001)



Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics

There were 1,549 establishments that either closed down or retrenched workers, displacing over 36,000 workers. In the same period last year, closures reached 287 while firms resorting to retrenchment numbered 1,131. This affected over 42,000 workers. Manufacturing sector had the highest share in total closure/retrenchment followed by wholesale and retail trade.

Marloar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

All Asia supports World Bank 'forensic audit'

By Elena R. Torrijos

ALL Asia Capital and Trust Corp. yesterday backed a World Bank request to conduct a $200,000 "forensic" audit to determine what happened to the company's assets and who should be held liable for it.

In an interview, All Asia president and chief operating officer Roy Joseph Rafols disclosed that the World Bank agreed to foot part of the bill for the investigation.

He said he would present the World Bank's proposal to the All Asia board.

The World Bank's investment arm, the International Finance Corp., has accused some current and previous All Asia officials of stealing its $20-million investment in the company.

The IFC has an outstanding loan to All Asia amounting to $17 million and owns a 7-percent stake in the company.

Since mid-May, All Asia has been under a new management team installed through the initiative of investment firm Lombard, which is seeking to preserve All Asia's assets.

Some shareholders have blamed the management team led by former All Asia chair Roland Young for All Asia's financial troubles and have questioned loans to companies under All Asia director and shareholder Antonio Garcia.

Rafols said All Asia was preparing a revised rehabilitation plan to submit to the Makati Regional Trial Court.

On July 16, All Asia filed a petition for rehabilitation with the court, which granted the request and appointed former SEC Associate Commissioner Danilo Concepcion as All Asia's receiver.

As of June 30 this year, All Asia has P7.1 billion in liabilities and P5 billion in assets.

Rafols said All Asia would propose to keep P600 million in assets as a working capital and use the rest of the company's assets to pay off secured creditors.

All Asia would then either restructure its unpaid debts into long-term debts or convert them into redeemable preferred shares, he said.

"I would like to have a legitimate viable plan to submit, and we're working with our auditors and creditors to do that," Rafols disclosed.

He said he would present the company's revised rehabilitation plan to its creditors next month.

Aboitiz One spends ₱250M on infotech facilities

ABOITIZ One, information technology arm of the Aboitiz group of companies, said yesterday it invested over P250 million to improve its technology infrastructure and support its online package tracking service.

It said it also recently forged partnerships with cellular giants Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. for a service that would allow people to track packages sent through Aboitiz through their mobile phones.

Aboitiz One president and chief executive Sabin Aboitiz said the partnership would play a crucial role in the success of its E-Trace package tracking service because of the widespread use of mobile phones in the country.

He added that sending text messages to track a package was cost-effective and practical.

"The technology is already there. It's just a matter of applying it to your business and getting people to use it," he said.

Aboitiz claimed that the partnership was made "at practically no cost to all parties" as Aboitiz One already had networks for the service and both Globe and Smart could rake in extra revenues from the E-Trace service.

"They provide the means by which our customers can reach us and we generate additional revenue for them with every inquiry," he added.

For a cellular subscriber to check on the status of mail or documents sent via Aboitiz One, one only has to key in "Aboitiz" followed by the consignment number. The same applies for cargo and parcels, but the airway bill number should be keyed in instead of the consignment number.

This message should then be sent to 2333 for Globe subscribers and 211 for Smart subscribers. The inquiries are then forwarded to Aboitiz Express' servers. A customer gets a response to his query in a matter of seconds.

Abigail L. Ho

Textron to launch ₱200-M system

TELECOMMUNICATIONS firm Textron Corp. is set to launch next month a P200-million satellite system for handling transaction data of banks, retail firms, manufacturing companies and other companies with national operations.

Also, starting Nov. 1, Textron will operate a second satellite system network featuring a broadband system aimed at distributing high-speed Internet service providers, as well as to major corporate accounts, Textron chair and chief executive Tirso Antiporda Jr. said in an interview.

Antiporda said since October last year, the company had invested P450 million for the two satellite systems and for a P50-million microwave radio network launched last January.

Textron will end the year with a total revenue of P72 million and is targeting to achieve P240 million next year, Antiporda said.

He said the company was operating profitably and was setting its sights on achieving P57 million in profit next year and far more the year after.

Originally established as a telecommunications systems integrator, Textron has been building complex communications networks for major corporations, utilities and government agencies for 23 years.

The online transactional satellite system to be launched on Nov. 7 is supplied by Gilat and has been operating since September. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DISCLOSURES

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. said that talks with **PT Indosiar Visual Mandiri** are exploratory in nature and are meant to identify possible business opportunities in Indonesia. These include the sale of programs and strategic partnership.

* * *

Basic Consolidated Inc. elected Fernando Gaite Jr., Isidoro Tan, Prudencio Somera Jr., Francis Chua, Ernesto Salas and Rufino Antonio Mijares as independent directors. *Compiled by Maricar. D Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 24, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	40.5	41	1,418,200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17	17.25	17	17.25	81,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	170	172	169	170	27,600
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	15,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1180	1180	50
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1000	1000	1000	1000	24,460
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	96,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	560	560	540	545	17,900
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	360	362.5	360	362.5	56,720
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	14,600,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	54,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	41,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	776,700
Petron Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	2,578,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.26	1,368,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.42	0.35	0.41	270,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
AGP Industrial Corp. A	4	4	4	4	9,000
AGP Industrial Corp B	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1,140,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	8,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.2	632,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	20,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	500
RFM Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.96	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	38.5	39	157,100
San Miguel Corp. B	44	44.5	44	44	179,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	35,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	140,000
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.4	2,787,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	6,004,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	180,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.63	0.64	4,660,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23	22	22.25	302,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	5,316,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	5,450,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	490,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	240,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	37,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	30,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.7	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	36,700
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	520	520	520	520	270
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	595	595	565	565	130
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	4,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0046	0.004	0.004	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.1	2,405,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	800,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.26	650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	21,510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	2,546,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	73,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	2,700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	1,640,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0042	0.0032	0.0042	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,650,830	89,926,800.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	111,695,820	130,601,270.00
PRO	32,779,000	26,211,540.00
Mining	1,345,000	83,300.00
OIL	11,050,000	47,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	158,520,650	246,872,810.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	391.36	DOWN 3.18
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,389.67	DOWN 14.94
PRO	414.43	DOWN 2.08
Mining	1,036.33	UP 37.39
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	617.99	DOWN 8.67
Composite	979.34	DOWN 8.70

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 52;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 1,199

CURRENCIES

Oct. 24, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122712	1.000000	51.8130
Japan	Yen	0.009162	0.008161	0.4228
United Kingdom	Pound	1.600202	1.425300	73.8491
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143945	0.128212	6.6430
Switzerland	Franc	0.676536	0.602591	31.2220
Canada	Dollar	0.714648	0.636537	32.9809
Singapore	Dollar	0.615185	0.547945	28.3907
Australia	Dollar	0.570571	0.508208	26.3318
Bahrain	Dinar	2.978176	2.652661	137.4423
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299390	0.266667	13.8168
Brunei	Dollar	0.612399	0.545464	28.2621
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000098	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.025054	0.022316	1.1563
UAE	Dirham	0.305749	0.272331	14.1103
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000770	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.890700	46.1498
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455408	23.5961
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135786	7.0355
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.404182	20.9419
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064730	3.3539
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022080	1.1440
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000460	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149805	7.7618
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004443	0.2302
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005353	0.2774
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02208	1.1440
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.130956	58.5982

New wave of job cuts hit US firms

NEW YORK—Thousands more workers face an uncertain future without jobs after a second wave of job cut announcements on Tuesday by major US firms reporting disappointing third-quarter results.

The cuts were across the spectrum of companies, ranging from copper mining giant Phelps Dodge Corp. to consumer electronics retailer RadioShack Corp. to life insurance company MetLife Inc.

Last week, during the first week of the third-quarter earnings period, appliance maker Maytag Corp. and aerospace company United Technologies Corp. were among a slew of companies to announce thousands of layoffs.

Most cited the softening global economy for slumping sales and earnings, and many said it had been exacerbated by the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Prof. Bart Victor of the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, said the attacks probably had an affect, but he was surprised at the number of announcements, even though they have become more commonplace.

"It is an interesting time, given the generally forecast foreseeable economic turnaround around in the middle of next year, when the market has been performing relatively well.

"What we have created is a flexible workforce," he said, where companies have no compunction about laying off staff and workers who no longer expect to spend their entire working life at one company.

"The stress and strain is not nearly as much. People used to see such layoffs as catastrophic," Victor told Reuters. "It shows a change in the nature of the labor market.

"There is no longer the outrage and the panic, like back in the '80s when it would be front-page news with gloom and doom predictions."

But businesses are now saying: "We can do this on a large scale and rapidly." Victor said there were alternatives to wholesale job cuts, like reducing profit expectations or changing the long-term view of labor, reducing working hours or introducing job-sharing.

But "it has simply become far more routine for companies and the people subject to the layoffs."

In the latest round of pink-slip announcements:

Aircraft interiors firm B/E Aerospace Inc. said on Tuesday that it would cut nearly a quarter of its workforce and close five facilities due to slowing demand for its products in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

B/E will lay off 1,000 of its 4,650 employees, or 22 percent, and take $90 million in charges related to its streamlining.

RadioShack, America's third-largest consumer electronics retailer, said it cut 10 senior executive posts and 298 positions in the third quarter in an effort to curb costs.

Telecommunications equipment maker ADC Telecommunications Inc. said it would slash up to 150 senior managers in a bid to streamline the company and speed decision-making following broader cuts announced in August.

MetLife cut nearly 1,900 jobs, or 4 percent of its workforce on Monday. The No. 2 US life insurer said it already is in the process of cutting 253 officer- and director-level employees, 10 percent of all directors, plus more than 1,630 other employees. *Reuters*

Engine of world economy sputters without US: official

WASHINGTON—With the United States in an economic slump, the world economy now has no engine to drive growth, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said Tuesday.

"Now that we have seen our economy slow for the last year, there is no locomotive for the world economy," O'Neill declared in remarks prepared for delivery to the Coalition of Service Industries here.

For much of the last decade the US economy has been the engine driving global economic growth, he said.

"One nation cannot create global prosperity alone," but "all nations must work together to combat the current global slowdown," in the same fashion as countries have pledged "unprecedented" cooperation to combat terrorism, he said.

The treasury secretary also repeated the Bush administration's call for the US Congress to give him broader authority to negotiate trade pacts without modification, limiting lawmakers to a yes or no vote on any agreement.

Expanding global trade will boost productivity in the US, and promote US values of "freedom, creativity, and tolerance," he said. *AFP*

HK to throw security cordon around forum

HONG KONG—Hong Kong police will throw a tight security cordon around an international economic conference next week and confine anti-globalization protests to locations far away from the meeting.

Police have been on high alert since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and growing global fears of germ or biological attacks have heightened tension in the territory ahead of the World Economic Forum East Asia Summit on Oct. 29-31.

Some 800 guests will attend the conference, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, top government officials and central bankers from around the region, and business leaders.

But a senior police official said this week the territory was well prepared and he expected no trouble at the meeting.

"We have no reason to believe there will be violence . . . from our intelligence," Fok Man-kwan, an assistant commissioner of police, told a news conference.

"I have contingency plans for any threat," he said, when asked if police were prepared for anthrax attacks similar to those in the United States, where the bacteria has killed three people.

Fok said 500 police officers would be deployed during the conference and areas around the Wanchai convention center would be off-limits from midnight on Oct. 28. Visitors to the center will be screened.

Violent anti-globalization demonstrations have marred a number of international gatherings in the last few years but protesters are widely expected to adopt a lower profile in coming months as governments the world over tighten security following the attacks.

Organizers said attendance at the conference was expected to be in line with previous years despite heightened fears over security and the safety of air travel following the September attacks and US led retaliatory bombing of Afghanistan.

"We have the same amount of participation as in previous years, registrations are coming in regularly," said a World Economic Forum press officer.

The Solidarity and Resistance to Globalization, an alliance of 21 local groups, has planned a march and a two-day alternative anti-globalization forum to coincide with the conference, but they are unlikely to be seen or heard by VIPs.

The government has denied it permission to rally near the convention center, saying the space has already been booked. *Reuters*

Compaq reports heavy Q3 losses

HOUSTON, Texas—Computer giant Compaq Tuesday reported losses for the third quarter of $120 million or 7 cents per share, worse than expected on Wall Street.

Analysts had predicted a loss of 6 cents per share.

Compaq, which is the process of merging with rival Hewlett-Packard, said revenues for the quarter were $7.5 billion, a 33-percent decrease over the same period last year. Analysts predicted revenues of $7.615 million.

"The third quarter was one of the most challenging ever for Compaq and our industry," said Compaq CEO Michael Capellas in a statement accompanying the results.

Capellas blamed a general slowdown in technology spending worldwide, plus the terrorist attacks in September, for his company's dismal performance.

Looking ahead, Capellas said the company expected the technology slump to continue through the first half of 2002. Compaq is predicting revenues of $7.6 million to $7.8 million for the fourth quarter, with losses coming in a 3 cents per share. *AFP*

Terror attacks cut down spending in Singapore

SINGAPORE—The September terror attacks in the United States have dealt a blow to consumer confidence here as Singaporeans cut down on their spending, according to a report Wednesday.

Citibank, one of the three biggest credit card issuers in the island, saw flat growth in sales per account last month, the Straits Times reported.

It was the first time in three years the US financial giant failed to report a rise in credit card spending by cardholders here.

Before the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Singaporeans were still spending 10 to 15 percent more compared with a year ago.

Citibank country marketing director William Glickert told the newspaper that "overall sales have been challenging" but he was still optimistic the situation "will not be as bad as in 1998."

The US bank's 380,000 cardholders in Singapore are the biggest local users of credit, outstripping the industry average by 40 percent. *AFP*

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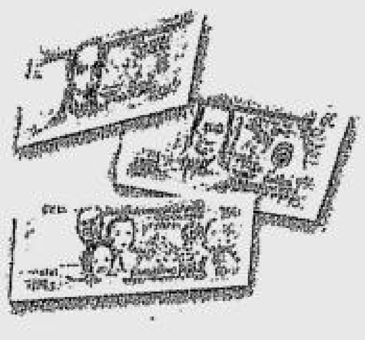

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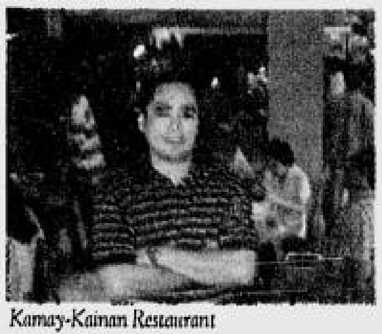

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

22 October 2001

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follow:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Capitol Homes (Kabugwason) Resettlement Project, Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City	Road, drainage sewerage, hand pumps and survey works	P16.00	A	Medium "B" for Roads

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Staff/Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Contract Agreement and Certificate of Completion/Acceptance of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline for submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on November 9, 2001. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 13, 2001, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 6, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late Ascario G. Tuason have executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement last Oct. 16, 2001, which deed was entered in the notarial register of Atty. Floro dela Cruz of Q.C. under Doc.#89; Page#18; Book#LXII; Series of 2001. PDI-Oct. 19, 25 & 31, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Transfer Certificate of Title #48427 & w/ SN#429704 located at Villa-Mendoza Subd. Sucat Pque owned by **MIRLA FLOR MANLAPAZ** was lost. Special power of Atty. issued to Reynario M. Manlapaz is hereby cancelled immediately. Any transaction made by him will no longer be honored.
(PDI-Oct. 11, 18 & 25, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Congratulations to the following new licensed CPAs who had passed the examination this month:

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3. AGOT, SORIMA EUSEBIO
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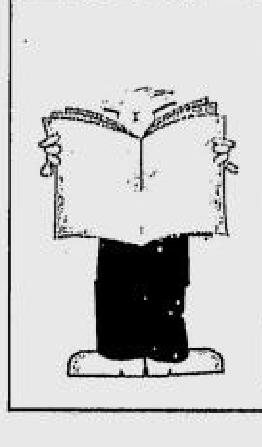

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Developing countries list demands for WTO

GENEVA—The needs of developing countries must be taken seriously by ministers at next month's World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Qatar, the Group of 77 and China insisted here Tuesday.

Presenting their shopping list of demands, the United Nations ambassadors of Cuba, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, China and Iran, voiced concern that the benefits of the multilateral trading system still eluded developing countries.

"Progress toward full liberalization in sectors of particular interest to them is lagging behind . . .," they said in a written declaration on the WTO conference in Qatar scheduled for Nov. 9-13 and read to reporters here.

The group demanded that governments should not be prevented by anything in the WTO's agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) from taking measures to protect public health or ensuring access to essential drugs.

"Discussions are underway . . . the situation is very difficult. There is strong resistance by two countries with the tacit support of a few other developed countries," Ambassador Federico Alberto Cuello, of the Dominican Republic, told reporters.

Although he was not specific, trade sources said the two countries he was referring to were the United States and Switzerland, which accept the principle that a government can decide the appropriate means for ensuring access to affordable medicines in specific health emergencies provided the decision falls within the TRIPS agreement.

But they face opposition from the developing world, especially countries such as Brazil, India and South Africa, that argue that governments must have a free hand to determine their health policies, including access to medicines, without restrictions under the TRIPS accord.

The Group of 77 also rejects any linkage of trade and labor standards, stating that the International Labor Organization is the competent body to deal with the issue, and oppose the use of environmental standards as "a new form of protectionism."

Negotiations are underway at the Geneva-based global trade body on draft documents to serve as the basis for the ministerial talks in Doha.

The meeting has been called to debate an agenda for a new round of trade liberalization talks.

Inclusion of the environment in a new trade round is close to the hearts of a number of the WTO's 142 members, including the European Union which also supports a discussion of investment and competition rules—another issue raised by the Group of 77 and China.

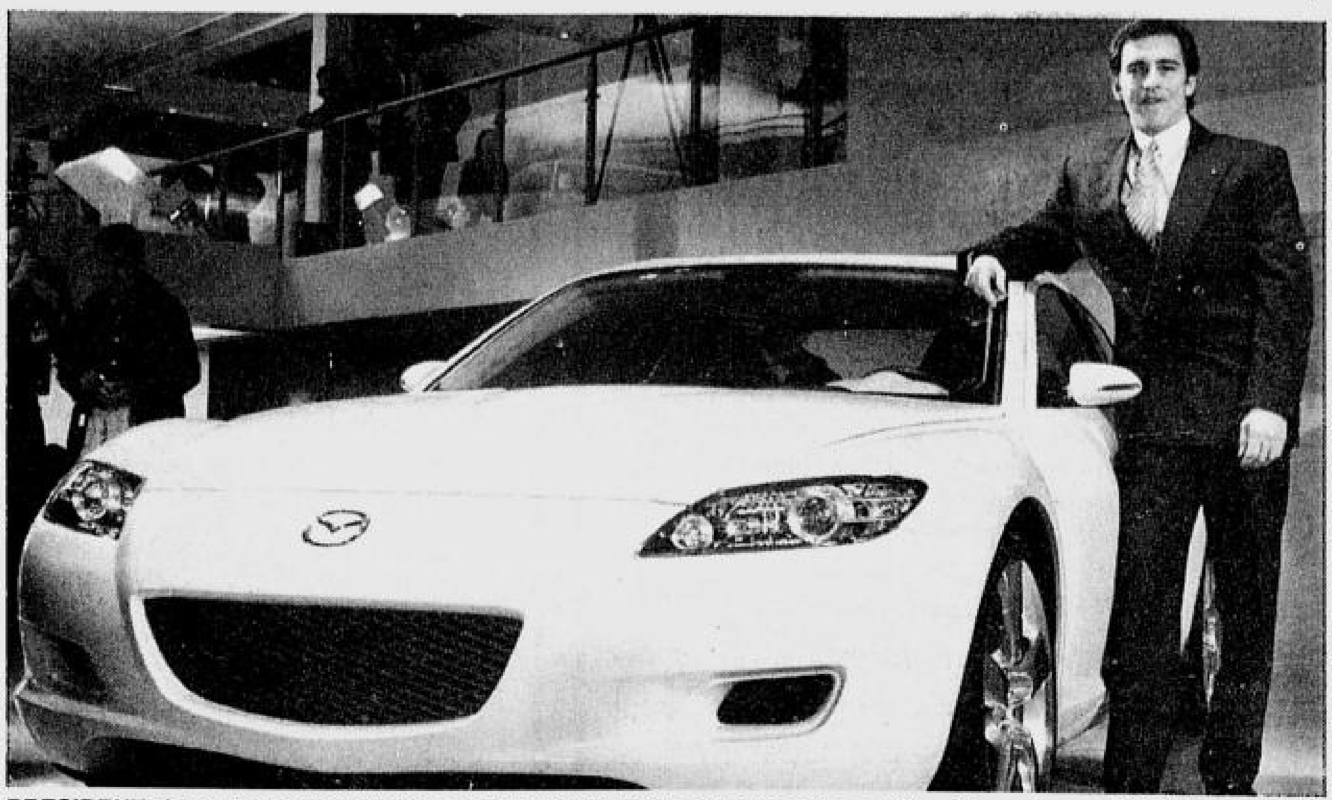
While they do not express opposition, their declaration calls for any decision on negotiations in these areas to be made on a "consensual basis" and with the implications for developing countries carefully assessed.

Cuban Ambassador Jorge Ivan Mora Godoy reiterated that developing countries were dissatisfied with the fruits of the last series of trade negotiations, the Uruguay Round that ended in 1994.

Agreements reached during that round have not resulted in greater access to markets in industrialized countries for exports from developing and least developed countries, he said.

Not all the members of the Group of 77 are members of the WTO. Iran's application has repeatedly been blocked by the United States. China, which supports the group's declaration on trade and also backs a new round is expected to join the WTO at the end of this year after 15 years of negotiations.

The ambassadors acknowledged that within the Group of 77, some members supported a new trade round while some did not. *AFP*



PRESIDENT of Japanese automaker Mazda Motor, Mark Fields, introduces the new flagship sports car., RX-8, during a press preview at the Tokyo Motor Show at Mauhari, suburban Tokyo, Oct. 24.

Japanese carmakers can beat crisis better than Americans

TOKYO—Japan's carmakers should be better able to deal with the consequences of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks than their American rivals, and to continue to win market share in some sectors in the US, according to auto analysts in Tokyo.

For the first time in more than a decade, the world's three biggest automotive markets—the US, Japan and Europe—will contract next year, Koji Endo, head of equity research at Credit Suisse First Boston Securities said.

There would be a "significant slowdown" in the US market in the first six months, Endo added at a presentation to mark the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, which opens to the press on Wednesday and the public on Saturday.

"It is going to be very tough even for the Japanese, although the Japanese will do a lot better compared with the 'Big Three' (General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Ford), which will push those Big Three further into trouble," Endo said.

Global sales will decline for two years in a row for the first time since the 1960s, according to Goldman Sachs auto analyst, Kuniko Shiohara.

JP Morgan's auto analyst Stephen Usher believes Japanese carmakers will continue to grab market share in the United States, particularly in the lucrative light truck sector, as they have done steadily for the past 18 years.

The Japanese share of the American market increased from almost 24 percent in calendar 1999 to 25 percent in 2000 and is expected to reach 27 percent this year, according to JP Morgan. *AFP*

China's trade unions fear job cuts after WTO

BEIJING—China's tightly controlled trade unions have expressed concerns that the country's imminent accession to the World Trade Organization could lead to job losses, state media said Wednesday.

"The most important and direct impact of the country's entry into the WTO on workers will be on their employment," said Zhang Junjiu, vice chair of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, according to the China Daily.

The heightened competition from foreign enterprises expected after WTO membership, and the restructuring that will have to happen, will cause "some" workers to become unemployed, Zhang said, quoted by the paper.

After overcoming the last obstacles to WTO entry, China is expected to cap its 15-year attempt to join the Geneva-based trade body within the next few months or even weeks.

But Zhang, who was attending an international workshop here, said there would also be a positive side to Beijing's WTO accession.

"The entry will create conditions for the long-term stable development of export trade, lay a solid foundation for long-term stability of the state's economy and promote the steady growth of employment," he said.

China, one of the last remaining Communist-run states in the world, allows only government controlled trade unions.

In March the country ratified the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, but with reservations on a key part which upholds the right to establish free trade unions. *AFP*

Indian IT firms see profits from disasters

NEW DELHI—Indian infotech firms are offering jittery foreign companies disaster management services following increased security concerns after the terrorist attacks on the US.

India's infotech industry said it had the "technology depth" to help clients abroad recover data and resume operations after a disaster like the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

"Last year, we began advising Indian and Asian firms on how to set up data back-up centers which can get businesses up and running after a disaster," said Vivek Paul, chief executive officer of India's biggest infotech firm Wipro Technologies.

"Now we are pitching our services to clients in Europe and the US and getting a huge number of inquiries. We are convinced about the potential of this business," he added.

This means that Indian firms such as Wipro and Satyam Computer Services could help US airlines, insurance and financial firms not only retrieve data but also set up recovery centers that store data in India.

"If companies appreciate the plain truth spelled out in Murphy's Law, it may be wiser for them to have a back up for these terribly turbulent times," said Paul.

For a US airline this might mean investing in a disaster recovery center in India, which houses all the firm's data some 12,000 kilometers (7,440 miles) away.

The forecasts for growth are encouraging. Businesses globally will double infotech spending on disaster management services by 2004, said global market researchers Meta Group Inc.

Similarly, US investment bank Goldman Sachs forecast a $585-billion investment in information technology by 2004. *AFP*

Business sentiment falls to 3-year low in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysian business sentiment in the third quarter of 2001 fell to its lowest reading in three years, a private economic think tank said in a report released Wednesday.

The Malaysian Institute for Economic Research said that its Business Conditions Survey index fell to 42.6 points in July-September 2001 from 59.3 points in the same period of last year.

The think tank cautioned that actual sentiment could be even worse than indicated by the index, as some respondents might have completed the institute's survey before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, which is Malaysia's largest single trading partner.

In its report, the institute indicated that the electrical and electronics manufacturing sector had been hit hard, with 85 percent of respondents reporting a decline in sales during the third quarter of 2001.

Electrical and electronic goods are Malaysia's prime export, and the sector has struggled with sluggish global demand this year.

The institute's survey reflects responses to a questionnaire sent to 750 business organizations involved in various manufacturing sectors. *AP*

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG. ☐ 176 ARROCEROS STREET ☐ 1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance of RA 7041

A. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN-Proper

Office of the Bureau Resident Ombudsman

CLERK III, Item No. OMBA-CK3-76-1998; SG-6; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

B. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Prosecution Bureau

CLERK II, Item No. OMBA-CK2-4-1998; SG-4; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

C. FACT-FINDING, INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH OFFICE

Research and Special Studies Bureau

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II; Item No. OMBA-GIO2-44-1998; SG-27; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 4 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (Bar) OR: Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 5 years of experience in conducting community work; systems studies/analysis counselling investigation or other related work; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Positions.

All interested applicants should submit to the Human Resource Management Division, OLD NAWASA Building, 176 Arroceros St., Manila, a letter of application stating the position and Item No. they are applying for on or before **October 30, 2001**. Previous applicants need to re-submit a letter of application.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF SAN NARCISO (Quezon), INC. (RBSNI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operations will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of San Narciso (Quezon), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from October 26 to November 22, 2001, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   Settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.
2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   - a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   - b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of San Narciso (Quezon) Inc. is on March 26, 2003. After March 26, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Oct. 25 & 26, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
8th Floor EDPC Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila 1004 Telefax Nos. 527-2780/527-2790

2004

Department of Finance
Republic of the Philippines

Local Government Finance and Development Project (LOGOFIND)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (**LOGOFIND**) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for consultant's services.

2. The Services for this assignment required by the Department of Finance shall include the following:

   a. Diagnostic Study of Bureau Local Government Finance (BLGF) - to review and thoroughly examine the existing mandate, structure, personnel complement, physical condition and equipment capability of BLGF toward determining the gaps, weaknesses and inadequacies of the existing structure and systems including the personnel capabilities in meeting the new responsibilities under a changed environment.

   b. Re-engineering Program of BLGF - to determine the appropriate focus, structure, manpower complement, position titles and resources that will make BLGF an effective agency of the Department of Finance and the National Government in helping strengthen financial performance of Local Government Units (LGUs) to attain self sufficiency and sustainable fiscal operations. The entire range of activities shall encompass the preparation and installation of an organizational manual defining the systems and procedures including personnel management, procurement, communications flow, and data base management. Mandatory management and information technology trainings are expected to be included over the re-engineering period.

3. The Department of Finance through its Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (by way of brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) DOF requires a consulting firm with extensive experience, expertise and knowledge of the Philippine Government rules on organizational and institutional aspects of the National Government operations and local government finance.

4. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999)

5. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1700 hrs from Mondays to Fridays, except holidays. Expressions of interest in writing must be delivered to the address below by November 26, 2001.

Executive Director BENJAMIN A. GERONIMO
Bureau of Local Government Finance
Department of Finance
8/F EDPC Building, BSP Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Tel. No. (632) 527-2790
Tel. No. (632) 527-2780

(PDI – Oct. 25, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle,Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSALS

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Janitorial Services in the Commission.

Pre-qualification requirements and other information could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Chairman, NTC PBAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **October 25, 2001**.

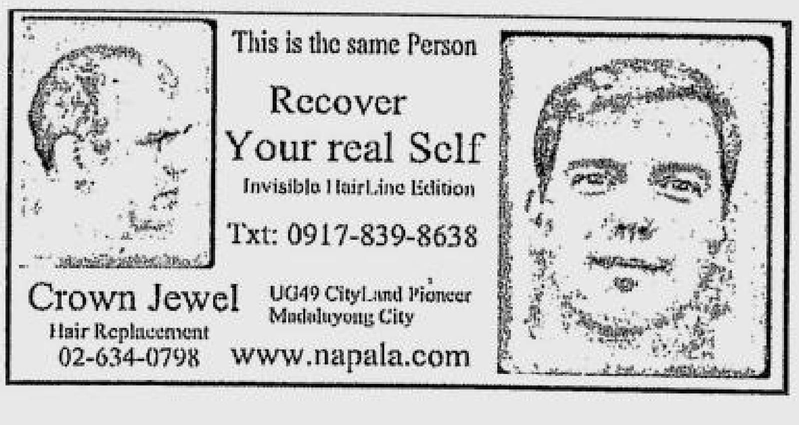
Submission of complete pre-qualification documents/requirements shall be not later than 5:00 PM on **November 12, 2001**, to Ms. Lumantod at the above office address.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be issued a copy of the Request for Tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00, which shall submit bids in two (2) envelopes, one (1) envelope marked as Original and the other as Copy, on the date to be specified in the Notice of Prequalification. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned at NTC office, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **KATHLEEN G. HECETA**
Deputy Commissioner
NTC-PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2001)



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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID (RE-BID)

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

PROJECT	Pre-Qualification Deadline	Bid Deadline
1. Comprehensive Maintenance of PABX System WO 01-041	October 26, 2001	November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.)
2. Rental of Ornamental Plants WO 01-045	October 26, 2001	November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Shuttle Services (2 buses) WO 01-046	October 26, 2001	November 6, 2001 (2:00 p.m.)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate
Management Services

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 25, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle,Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSALS

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Security Services in the Commission.

Pre-qualification requirements and other information could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Chairman, NTC PBAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **October 25, 2001**.

Submission of complete pre-qualification documents/requirements shall be not later than 5:00 PM on **November 12, 2001**, to Ms. Lumantod at the above office address.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be issued a copy of the Request for Tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00, which shall submit bids in two (2) envelopes, one (1) envelope marked as Original and the other as Copy, on the date to be specified in the Notice of Prequalification. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned at NTC office, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **KATHLEEN G. HECETA**
Deputy Commissioner
NTC-PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 19, 25 & Nov. 1, 2001)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 928-8505 loc. 253 & 252

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Bureau of Agricultural Research invites all interested Bidders to pre-qualify for the bidding of supply and installation of modular workstations with panels, lateral files, modular conference tables, steel storage lockers and steel manual type compactor/trail.

B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement and Bidding Awards Committee of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR-PBAC) at 3rd Floor, ATI Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

   1. Company Profile.
   2. SEC Registration (Corporation); DTI Accreditation (Sole Proprietorship).
   3. License to Operate (Mayor's Permit).
   4. ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR).
   5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years.
   6. VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration.
   7. Number of Employees.
   8. List of clients within the year with their respective telephone numbers and addresses.
   9. The company must indicate in its application the category/classification/grouping they would like to participate in (Letter of Intent).
   10. Certification that the company is not affiliated with other companies with similar nature of business.
   11. Listing of product offered.
   12. Certification of dealership from authorized distributor.

   NOTE:

   - ONLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
   - ONLY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS/RESELLERS/DEALERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING
   - COST OF DOCUMENTS: P2,500.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)
   - FUNDING SOURCE ALLOCATION: 7M

C. Deadline for submission: **November 5, 2001.**

D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

E. The Bureau of Agricultural Research reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Bureau.

F. For further particulars, please inquire at Telephone Nos.: 928-8505, 928-8624 local 153 or 141 c/o Ms. Corazon L. Barretto or Arch. Edgardo Abesamis.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO R. PONCE**
Director

(PDI – Oct. 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of the Late

JOEL B. TRINIDAD

the following Masses will be held on October 25, 2001
in remembrance of his
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

St. Jerome Emiliani Parish Church, Ayala Alabang Village	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish Church, Ayala Alabang Village	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, Pacita Complex, Biñan, Laguna	6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Don Bosco Parish Church, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	6:00 p.m.
Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Marcelo Village, Parañaque	6:30 a.m.
Redemptorist Church, Cebu City	5:30 a.m.
Poblacion Parish Church, Barile, Cebu (November 1, 2001)	5:00 a.m.
Sta. Teresa de Avila, Talisay, Cebu	5:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Tabunoc, Talisay, Cebu	5:45 a.m.
St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church, Surrey, B.C. Canada	8:30 a.m.

His wife **CELY**; children **JIJI, NEIL** and **CHERRY, JOANALEE** and **BABA**; and all his grandchildren celebrate his birth to eternal life.

DONATO AVELINO PEDRAZA

April 07, 1954 -- October 24, 2001

His father **Julio Cuna Pedraza** (†); mother **Minda Avelino** (†); sisters, brother and in-laws **Marcelina, Jose** and **Doris Palado, Teresita** and **William Silvester, Socorro** and **Eusebio de Guzman**; nephew and nieces **Paul Jonathan, Kimberly, Joanna** and **Marie Jill**; grandson **Noah** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
The body lies in state at Sto. Domingo Church, St. Martin Mortuary, Quezon Blvd., Quezon City.
Interment to be announced later.

> ***"I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given me, for they are Yours."***
>
> John 17:9

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In Loving Memory
of

RADITO DELGADO BANZON

(July 4, 1957 - October 25, 1981)

on his 20th Death Anniversary

Santissimo Rosario Chapel, *UST Hospital*	12:15 PM
Malolos Cathedral Basilica, *Bulacan*	7:00 AM
San Antonio Parish Church, *Forbes Park*	12:15 & 6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri, *Magallanes*	6:00 PM
St. James, *Ayala Alabang Village*	6:20 AM

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

May his soul rest in peace with the Lord.

We Lovingly Remember

the **1st Death Anniversary** of our beloved ***DADDY***

ATTY. MAXIMO P. UMIPIG

February 27, 1922 — October 25, 2000

Holy Masses for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered today, October 25, 2001 at the following churches:

Our Lady of Mercy, *Novaliches, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish, *Gagalangin, Manila*	6:30 AM
EDSA Shrine, *EDSA/Ortigas, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
San Roque Parish, *A. Mabini, Caloocan*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Grace Parish, *Grace Park, Caloocan*	6:45 AM
Espiritu Santo Church, *Tayuman, Manila*	7:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, *Retiro, Quezon City*	7:30 AM
San Roque de Manila Parish, *Blumentritt, Manila*	7:30 AM
Sta. Cruz Church, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 AM
San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica, *Binondo, Manila*	8:15 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, *Quiapo, Manila*	9:00 AM

We, the family, would like to request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. May his soul rest in peace with the Lord.

"Eternal rest grant unto him O'Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace."

ATTY. FRANCISCO *"Kikoy"* DARIA DE VERA

Retired LTO Regional Director
National Capital Region

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 20, 2001 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Dr. Gloria Gonzales De Vera**; children **Atty. Desiree, Frances** and **Vivien**; sons-in-law **Arnel** and **Cocoy**; grandchildren **Martin** and **Franco**; brothers **Antonio** and **Nestor**; other relatives and friends, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria San Antonio, Rizal St., Sorsogon City.

Interment will be at the Sorsogon Memorial Garden on October 29, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Fatima Church, Sorsogon City.

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

LOURDES MAYO REYES

who passed on to eternal life on October 17, 2001

would like to thank all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and notes of sympathy, were present at the wake and funeral rites, and eased their sadness in many other ways. God bless you all.

PHILAMLIFE

The Officers, Staff and Agency Force of

The PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY
announce with profound sadness
the passing away on 22 October 2001 of

MANUEL B. ESGUERRA

First Vice President and Director of Agencies for Metro Manila

and condole with his wife **Gina**;
children **Sasa**, **Chico**, **Patricia** and **Luigi**;
and the rest of his loved ones.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz,
G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

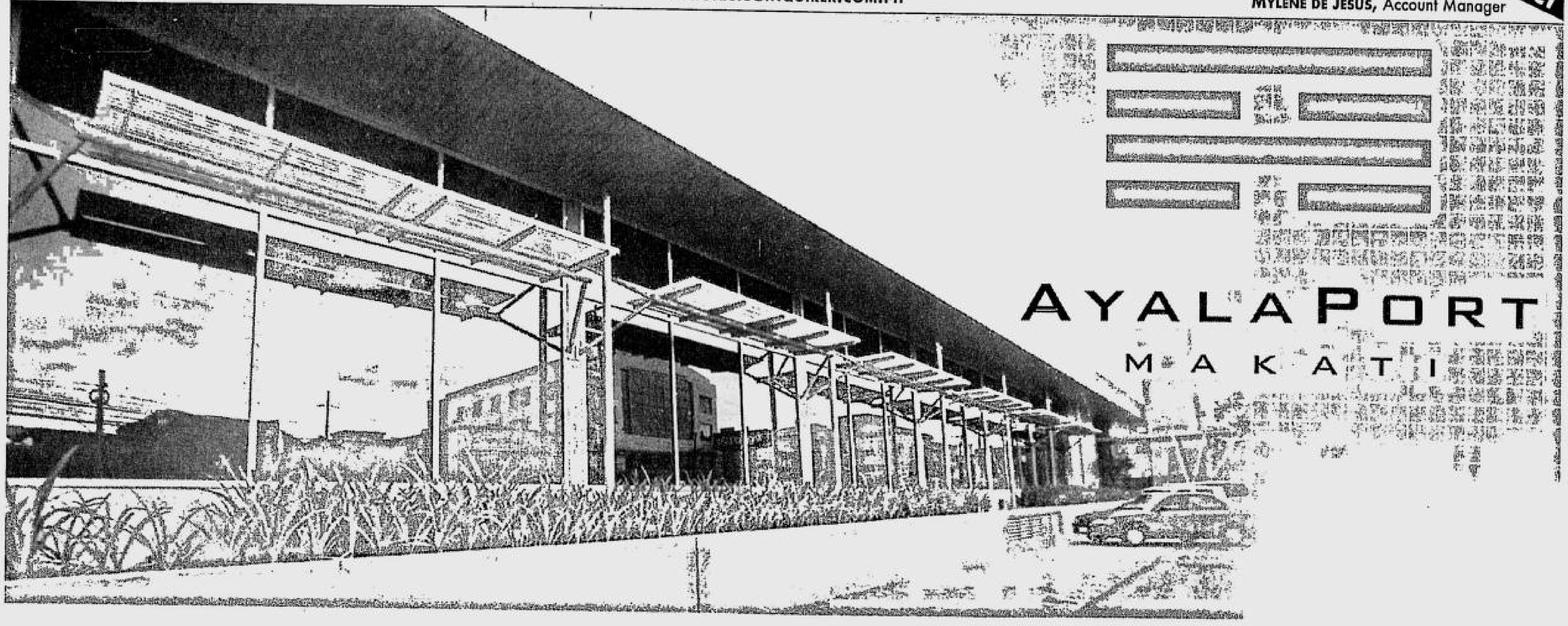
Cremation will follow on Saturday, 27 October 2001
after the 1:00 PM requiem Mass.

God
has taken

Raquel Ponce-Enrile Rodriguez

Her ashes will be at the
Sanctuario de San Jose, in Greenhills,
only for today, October 25, 2001.

She is mourned by her children
Carlos, **Sylvia**, and **Carlota**;
grandchildren **Crystal**, **JJ**, and **Michael**;
brothers and sisters
Juan and **Cristina Castañer**,
Armida and **Leonardo Siguion-Reyna**,
Irma Potenciano,
Alfonso,
Armando and **Ma. Aurora Mejia**,
and their respective families.



RP's 1st purpose-built Data Center puts companies on the global map

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

THE RAPID advancement of technology in recent years has had significant impact on how businesses are conducted.

Businesses, from small- and medium-sized enterprises to large corporations, have to keep up with technology in order to be competitive. The demand for these firms to be connected to the world has become more urgent than ever. The Internet and its networks have become critical tools in going about businesses. Companies are faced with the need to run their own IT infrastructure, at the same time keep up with the requirements of their 'brick-and-mortar' firms. These have become a battleground for companies which have to allocate scarce capital between its core business and its technological infrastructure.

Thus is born the AyalaPort Makati Data Center, the country's first purpose-built data center.

The AyalaPort Makati Data Center provides state-of-the-art facilities offering the highest standards of security, cutting-edge technology, redundant and managed environment. The center offers services that are cost-efficient alternatives to building and managing a company's own data center. It is a digital haven at the heart of the country's premiere financial district.

AyalaPort Makati occupies a 9,000-sqm lot on Chino Roces Avenue Extension (formerly Pasong Tamo extension) in Makati City. It is a joint venture of iAyala, the technology investment arm of Ayala Corp., ALINet.com, the technology company of Ayala Land Inc., and the Internet Initiative of Japan Group, Japan's largest Internet access and solutions provider.

Some of the services that AyalaPort Makati offers are: co-location, connectivity, hosting, business continuity services, server and network performance management services, technical support services, consulting services, and security services like intrusion detection, firewall services, virus control and vulnerability assessment.

Reliable network

To give clients the freedom of choice which will provide them connectivity, all major telecommunications and service providers in the country are present in the facilities. Internet connectivity is provided by multiple providers.

Technologies at the center are provided by leading names in the field of IT. This gives the center the capability to offer only the best—whether it be hardware, software or communications.

Certified and highly trained personnel who bring with them experience from various fields like telecommunications, ISPs, and electronic data interchange run AyalaPort Makati.

> ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONS HAVE ACCESS TO THE BUILDING. PEOPLE TRAFFIC IS CONTROLLED BY PROXIMITY CARD READERS, BIOMETRIC READERS, KEYPAD ACCESS CONTROL, MAN TRAPS EQUIPPED WITH IN AND OUT READERS AND INFRARED SENSORS AND X-RAY MACHINE

Physical, electronic and logical security

AyalaPort Makati provides physical, electronic and logical security. A single-entry point to the concrete walled structure with interlocked 24x7 external and internal monitoring by the round-the-clock security force ensures physical security at AyalaPort Makati.

Only authorized persons have access to the building. People traffic is controlled by proximity card readers, biometric readers, keypad access control, man traps equipped with in and out readers and infrared sensors and X-ray machine. Closed-circuit television cameras with digital recording and playback are also deployed in strategic parts of the building. These constitutes the electronic media security. Firewalls, intruder detection system and anti-virus scanning are also in place for logical security.

Redundant power supply

To ensure that ample power supply runs through the whole data center 100 percent of the time, two different, geographically separate power substations provide electricity to the facilities. Backup generators are completely in place to supply the full load of the required electrical power. These backup generators have the capacity to run uninterrupted for up to a month without fuel replenishment.

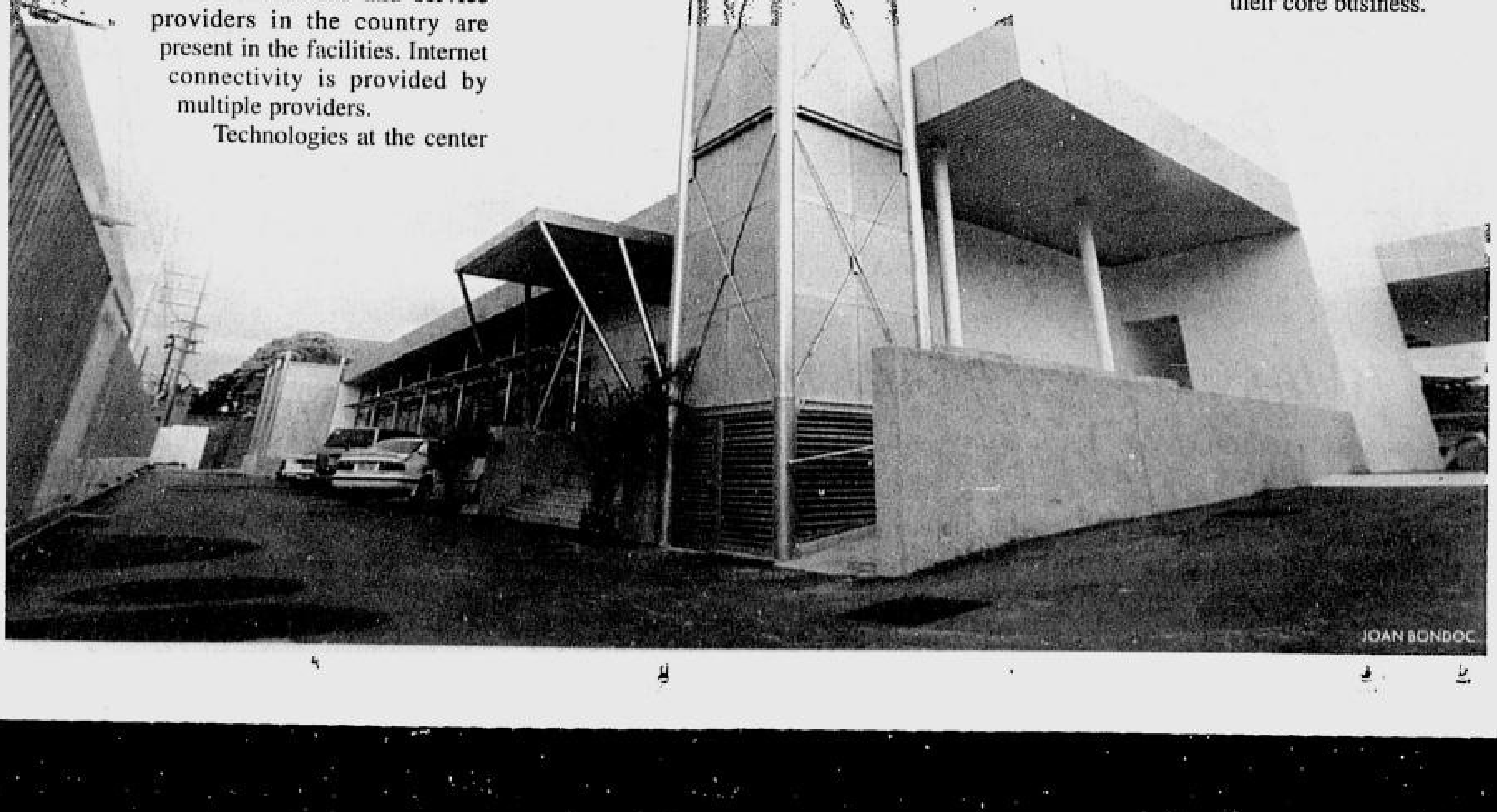
To safeguard the equipment in the center and to eliminate risks associated with power spikes and fluctuations, a centralized UPS system is set up which includes harmonic filters. All electric power is coursed through here first to precondition the electric power.

Managed environment

The environment at AyalaPort Makati is also managed. The facilities operate in an automated building management system that monitors and controls lighting, heating and ventilation air-conditioning (HVAC). The system creates constant and stable temperatures. This enables the equipment to achieve optimum performance and eventually helps prolong equipment life. Like all the other facilities at the data center, all cooling systems are redundant to protect against failure.

An NN100 gas-type fire suppression system protects the data center. This system is found to be environment friendly. And since the Philippines lies in an earthquake-prone area, strict structural standards are followed with seismically braced racks and equipment that allow servers and system to withstand seismic events.

Technology and the Internet will continue to have a significant impact on businesses. Only the firms that are able to keep up with these will be able to have their place in the global marketplace, and maintain it. The AyalaPort Makati Data Center helps answer that need so companies can focus on their core business.


JOAN BONDOC

MESSAGES

I CONGRATULATE Ayala Corporation, Ayala Land Inc. and its subsidiaries, iAyala and Alinet.com together with The Internet Initiative Japan Group, for launching AyalaPort Makati Inc., the first purpose-built data center in the Philippines.

As a prime mover in a dynamic business environment, Ayala Corporation once again pioneered in empowering the larger Filipino business community by giving them confidence to venture boldly into the global market. By providing facilities such as this, you are effectively addressing the present and future information technology needs of our enterprises in the most cost-effective and efficient means through outsourcing.

I consider Ayala Corporation's initiative of tapping the full potential of information technology as a direct investment of trust towards greater economic stability, and spurring national growth and development by providing greater security and reliability to business operations.

It is thus my utmost hope that you reap success as you start your operations for the greater benefit of Philippine business and the country's overall economic development.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR WARMEST greetings and sincerest congratulations to Ayala Corporation, Ayala Land Inc. and its partner, the Internet Initiative of Japan Group, on the launching of AyalaPort Makati Inc. as the first purpose-built data center in the Philippines.

For years, we have been witness to many endeavors of Ayala Corporation geared towards enhancing the attractiveness of the country's business environment and climate.

Today, after pioneering many successful projects in the real estate and telecommunications industry, Ayala Corporation is venturing into information technology through AyalaPort Makati Inc.

Indeed, we are pleased to note that as a state-of-the-art data center where businesses can outsource mission critical business systems and applications, AyalaPort Makati Inc. has also developed a technologically advanced and secure facility from which these systems and applications could be run—thereby giving business enterprises a cost-efficient alternative to managing their own data centers and Internet presence. Facilities such as this serve as keys for building a stronger Philippine IT infrastructure and web-enabled economy that is ready and able to hold its ground in the world of cyberspace.

To Ayala Corporation, our sincere congratulations and best wishes on the launching of AyalaPort Makati Inc.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

LET me take this as an opportunity to congratulate the people of Ayala Corporation along with its subsidiaries, iAyala, Alinet.com and its partner, Internet Initiative of Japan as it launches the first purpose-built data center in the country, the AyalaPort Makati Inc. We have known that the Ayala Corporation not only provides state-of-the-art facilities but also introduced innovative systems which provide a boost to our country's economic standing.

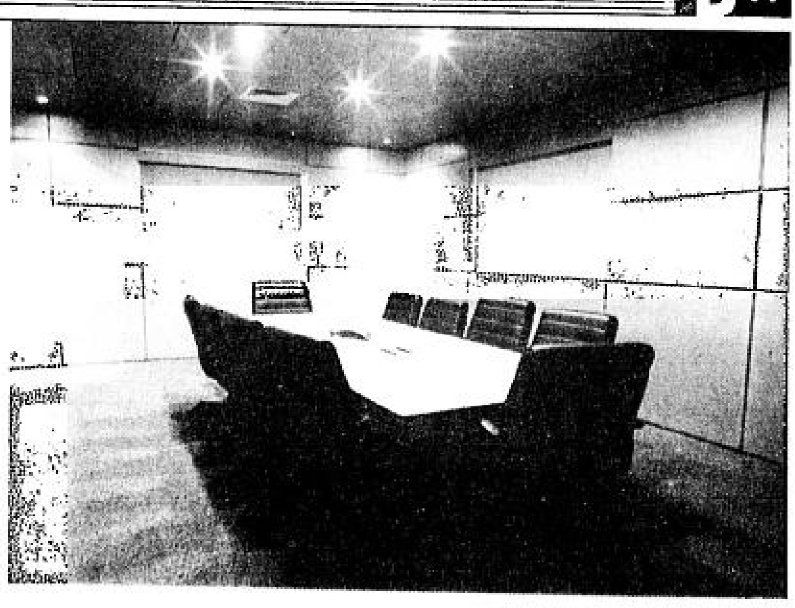
By providing the business sector with a facility that will aide companies in managing and improving their business, you have helped in creating more job opportunities for our people and at the same time helped promote greater dynamism in the local industry.

The greater optimism that Ayala has shown throughout the years has brought the imperative swing to the business industry and, more importantly, has speeded up the economic growth that the country needs.

Our congratulations to all of you.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

ELISEO M. RIO JR.
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission



AyalaPort: world-class facilities and security

AYALAPORT Data Center offers world-class products and services that will fit your business needs today and in the future.

AyalaPort Data Center and Internet Services

Co-location. Lease secure space from our facilities. Get either a small rack space, or your very own cage to house your servers. Start small and scale up as your business grows.

Hosting. Host your website and mission critical applications on either a dedicated, shared or multiple servers at our data center. We can configure a hosting package that fits your business needs.

Connectivity. Connect to the rest of the world using a carrier of your choice. Our data center has available ports to all major carriers. Get either a dedicated connection, or an on-demand plan that gives you additional bandwidth only when you need it. Or link directly with the servers of other co-locators in our facilities.

AyalaPort Managed Services

Business Continuity. We can help you achieve true 24 by 7 operations. We can take care of your backup and restore processes, including your archiving needs. Our Disaster recovery services will keep you up and running even if your main system fails.

Server Management. Locating your sever with us frees you from the need for physical intervention from your end. Our "remote hands" services will allow you to operate your server from the comfort of your office.

Performance Management. We manage and optimize the performance of your servers and networks, caching commonly used pages to minimize access times. We use advanced software technologies to ensure load balancing and to manage your network traffic. And we constantly monitor performance to ensure that service level standards are met.

AyalaPort Security Services

Intrusion Detection. We protect your mission critical business functions and applications from unauthorized network intrusions by using state-of-the-art software technologies.

Firewall Services. We secure your server from the outside world by using the latest firewall technologies.

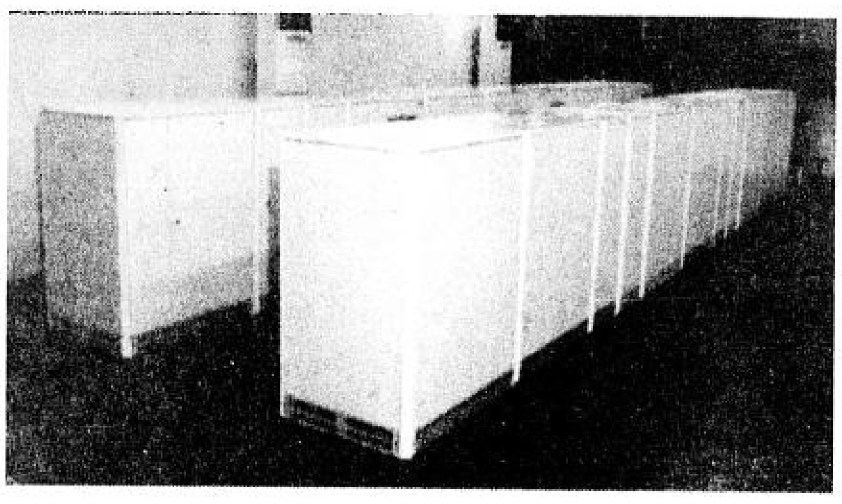
Virus Control. We safeguard your system from virus attacks by using advanced technologies in virus detection and recovery.

Vulnerability Assessment. Whether your server is located in our data center or not, we can also help assess your risk against security threats and network intrusions.

AyalaPort Professional Services

Technical Support Services. Our experienced engineers are available 24 by 7 to answer all your technical concerns.

Consulting Services. Our team of certified system consultants will help you in every stage of running your mission critical applications—from planning and design to implementation.



Partners provide solutions

ONE of the major partners in the establishment of AyalaPort Makati Inc. is iAyala, the holding company of all Internet-related investments of Ayala Corp. The other partners are ALINet.com, the technology company of Ayala Land Inc., and Internet Initiative of Japan, Japan's largest Internet access and solutions provider.

The company provides capital, infrastructure, and management and technological expertise to entrepreneurs, developers and its partners to generate revenue opportunities as well as to accelerate the consolidation of the Ayala Group's strategy for the New Economy.

Through the following initiatives—the Ayala Internet Venture Partners (AIVP), which engages in strategic investments for the Internet and enabling technologies, and Wireless Internet Solutions (W-Net) Inc., a developer of WAP-enabled services applications for the wireless markets—iAyala attempts to capitalize on various e-commerce opportunities.

iAyala also seeks to develop applications and to make strategic investments that will provide synergy for the Ayala Group in the New Economy through finding ways to develop strategic partnership with vendors, content providers and technology enablers, as well as to enter into co-branding opportunities with leading Internet portals.

As a member of the Ayala Group, iAyala is conscious of its relationship with a leader in the Philippine economy. It also realizes that the development of the technological skills and expertise of IT professionals in the Philippines has to be nurtured if it hopes to be a technology leader in the Asian region.

To promote this development, iAyala helped found the Philippine WAP Users Group (PhilWAP), the first nonprofit WAP organization in the Philippines. It aims to establish a community of WAP developers, users and enthusiasts. Through PhilWAP, "WAPcceleration: The Philippine WAP Symposium and Business Incubator Series" was held in April 2000.

iAyala sees itself as a catalyst that will enable the Ayala Group to penetrate the rapidly expanding wireless and Internet markets.

IMV powers Ayala Port's Data Center

INVERTOMATIC Victron (IMV), the leader in uninterruptable power supplies or UPS products continues to empower businesses with sure-fire UPS solutions

Recently, IMV's exclusive distributor, Victron UPS Phils. partnered with one of the leading data centers in the country, Ayala Port Data Center. Through this partnership, IMV hopes to contribute to Ayala Port Power Data Center's goal to enable new age e-business for all sectors of the industry, from multinational corporations to small and medium enterprises.

In an age of information technology, businesses have placed great importance on information and security. Companies find it very crucial to store and secure important data. With Ayala Port Data Center's data warehouses, companies will be assured that important company information such as its database is protected under all conditions. Together with IMV's UPS solutions powering up Ayala Port's data warehouses, companies may have round the clock access to their data and the loss of valuable information is prevented.

For more than thirty years, IMV has built formidable experience and expertise in developing and implementing power management solutions. Its state-of-the-art offering covers the full range of hard and software products, including UPS (250 VA to 4 MVA), power management, data protection software, and related tools and systems.

IMV offers safe and managed power to thousands of organization all over the world. It guarantees continuous availability of power dependent installations and an unmatched level of power reliability for mission critical applications. With the use of advanced technology such as control networks and the Internet, IMV provides the best data protection, power monitoring and management.

With Victron UPS Phils' pool of skilled engineers, it is able to create solutions that best meet specific designs and technical requirements. As new technologies and techniques emerge, Victron's engineers continue to develop solutions that exploit the advances in the industry. The engineers integrate customer feedback and market requirements into the solutions that they develop.

As a result, IMV products are easy to install, operate and service. It is especially rugged to be able to withstand the most demanding environmental conditions. All the products are manufactured in ISO 9001-certified factories and undergo exhaustive testing before being delivered to the clients.

IMV has a network of carefully selected business partners, whose salespeople and service engineers combine expertise with IMV solutions and the knowledge of local market conditions. IMV business partners use all these expertise and knowledge to adapt to the end-users needs. With IMV solutions, these business partners are able to provide advice, support, and installation services 24 hours a day.

All IMV partners meet strict IMV standards to ensure that they are able to supply customers with the highest quality products and services. To maintain IMV standards of service, partners are required to attend certified training courses regularly.

By choosing IMV, partners are able to put their trust on them. In return, IMV offers a commitment to empower their business.

CommVerge bridges gap between technology, business

IN THE late 1990s, the founders of CommVerge Solutions identified a significant gap in the telecommunications industry.

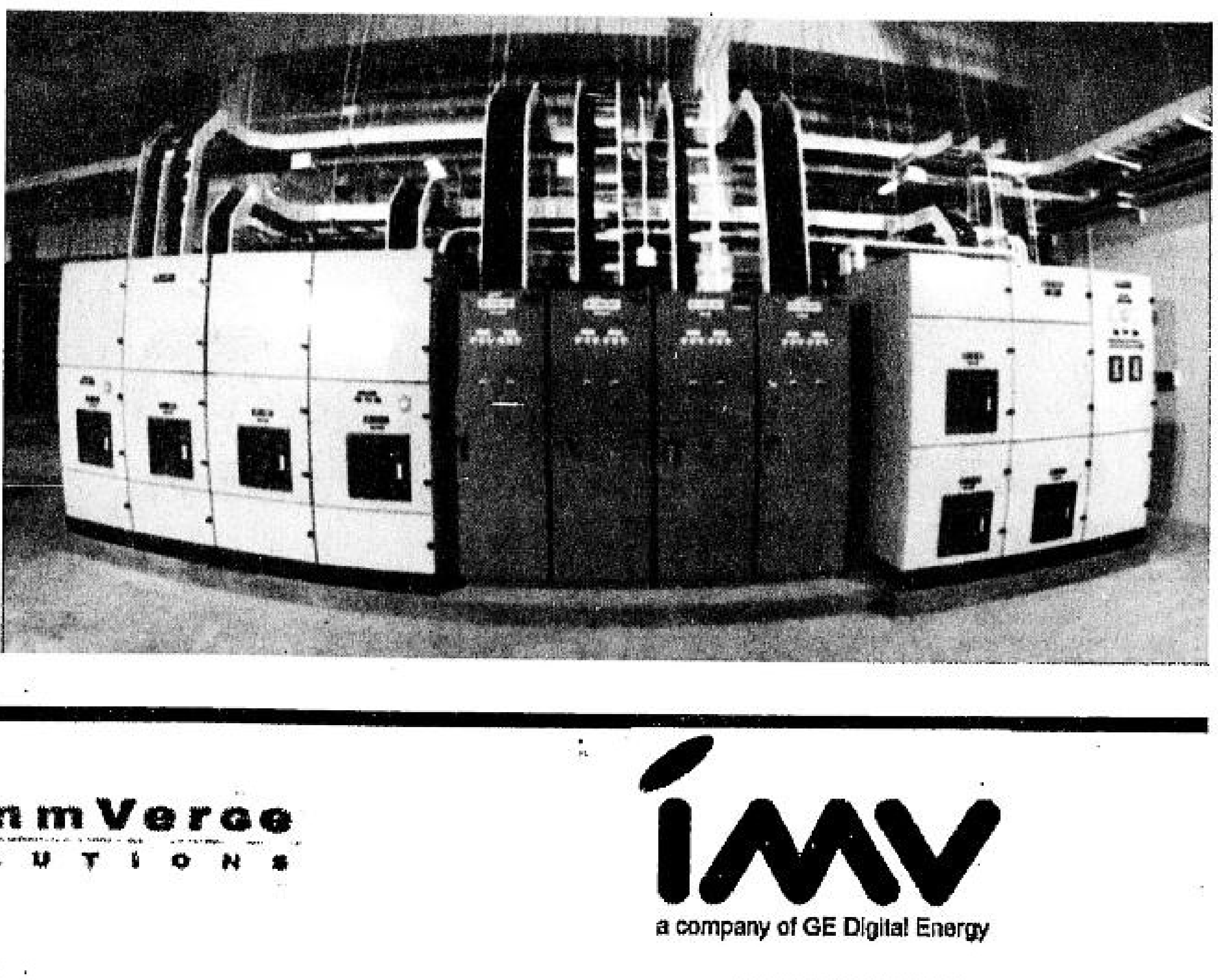
Service providers, faced with unprecedented competition, lacked the resources to seek and screen out most appropriate technologies and business services that met their strategy and service goals. At the same time, many emerging technology vendors that carried excellent products lacked the network and experience to penetrate the expanding service provider market.

CommVerge Solutions was formed in 1999 to bridge this gap, bringing service providers the best available technology solutions, regardless of the source. The first of its kind, CommVerge offers flexibly designed and developed customer-focused solutions for service providers independent of equipment vendors. This independence allows the company to provide objective advice and flexible, state-of-the-art network solutions.

"Because of the whole project life cycle outlook of Commverge Solutions, their quality of service and people skills, AyalaPort Makati awarded to CommVerge Solutions several key supply contracts. Among which were the supply and installation of the core network, structured cabling and the installation of some of the security technologies implemented by AyalaPort Makati."

Headquartered in Hong Kong, CommVerge Solutions is a true global network architect, with a network of offices throughout Asia and in the United States, and with plans to expand throughout the globe.

The best people applying best practices for best results—these words describe CommVerge Solutions' corporate philosophy and the advantage the company brings to network deployment projects, from idea to implementation and beyond.



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Chrysler distributor launches 3 models

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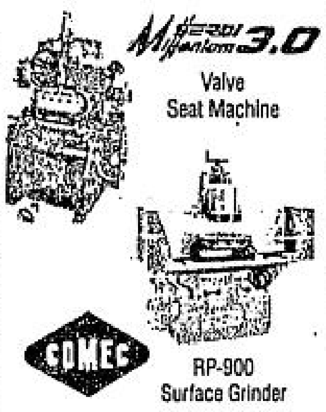
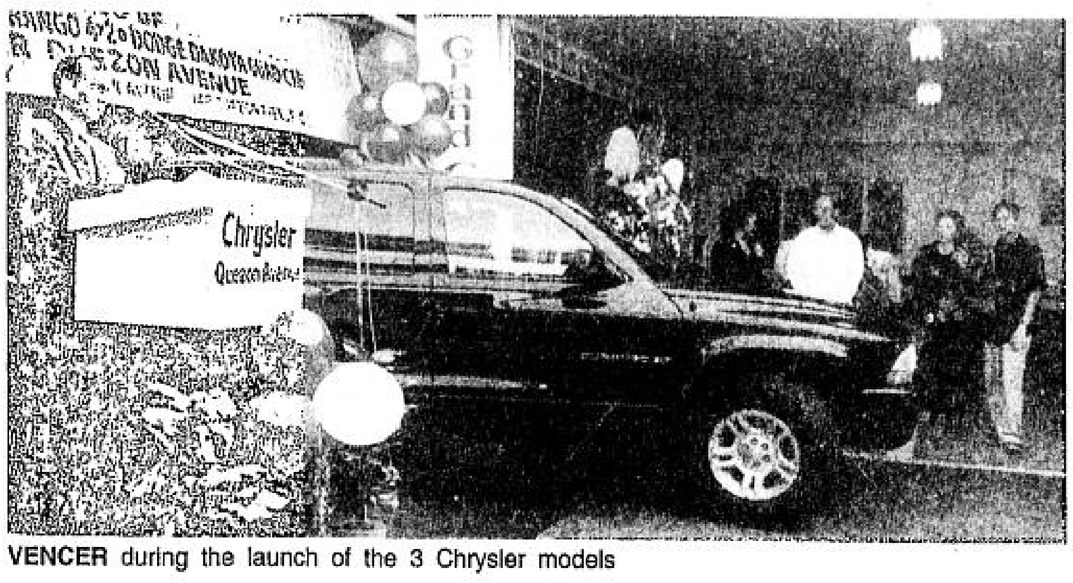


101 DON A. ROCES AVE.,
QUEZON CITY

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

CHRYSLER makes a strong move in the SUV, compact truck and minivan market with the recent introduction of three 2001 models. Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., Chrysler's exclusive distributor in the country, announces the entry of the Dodge Durango 4x2, Dodge Dakota Quad Cab and the Chrysler Town and Country during the formal launch held at the Chrysler Quezon Avenue showroom.

"The three models will definitely give our customers new choices. Each of these models fits a particular lifestyle that our Filipino customers will truly appreciate. Whether you're looking for power, space, safety or excellent hauling capacity or great design Chrysler has one model for you," says Porti Vencer, national marketing manager of Norkis Automotive Resources.



VENCER during the launch of the 3 Chrysler models

For those who need space—to fit in eight people or more grocery items, the Dodge Durango 4x2 is a sure carrier, thanks to a third row of seats. "The Durango may be compact on the outside, but once inside you'll be surprised by the roominess. The 40/20/40 Fold-and-Tumble split-bench second seat folded in segments makes it possible to carry more passengers and longer items," explains Vencer.

The 4x2 Durango comes standard with a 4.7-liter V8 engine that can achieve a maximum horsepower of 235. With a 7,600-pound towing capacity and 88 cubic feet of maximum cargo space, it's an SUV that can be stuffed to the fullest with family and friends, and still have the ability to haul other party items. A standard roof rack further expands the SUV's cargo-carrying options.

Power and space

The Dodge Dakota Quad Cab enters the Philippine market with fresh looks, power, a much-desired four-door configuration and a brand-new interior. The Quad Cab has upgraded its audio components and now has optional steering wheel controls and larger exterior mirrors, leather interior and front seatbelt pretensioners for safety.

You may think that being compact means the Quad Cab also gave up so much. Well, again you're wrong—everything from its towing capacity and interior seems bigger than the norm. Dakota Quad Cab's Stow-and-Go rear seats create almost 30 cubic feet of space. When folded and rear doors swing out to almost 90 degrees it's easy to load people or cargo into your Dakota.

If you're worried about having to tow with this compact truck, keep in mind the Dakota's potential 6,700-pound towing capacity—a real hauler in its class. The two-wheel-drive pickup boasts of a 4.7-liter V8, which makes a useable 230 hp and 295 foot-pound of torque. Plus, the interior is able to control engine noise, thanks to its high-density carpeting and spool-type tuned engine mounts working together to decrease sound.

"The Quad Cab carved out its own niche in the compact pickup market by being a 'compact' truck that offers more in many aspects, giving it an instant advantage over competitors," says Vencer.

Luxurious ride

The upscale Voyager Town and Country, on the other hand, is a sure head-turner. Like a stretched limousine, the Town and Country offers luxury and plenty of it. Step inside the Town and Country and be treated to a standard leather-trimmed seating and Quad Command convenience. A five-function trip computer, three channel overhead console with HomeLink Universal Transceiver will definitely get your attention. There are even buttons to control all the available power doors and lift gate—that's control for the two side doors and the industry-first available power rear lift gate.

What sets the Chrysler Town and Country apart from the other minivans is the powerplant sitting under the hood. The LXi front-wheel-drive comes standard with a 3.3-liter V6 engine capable of producing 180 horsepower. The Town and Country is hooked to a four-speed automatic transaxle and four-wheel disc antilock brakes to effectively scrub speed.

Other safety features have also been addressed with an all-new structure utilizing advanced crumple zones, next generation multistage driver and front-passenger airbags, brake-park interlock, seatbelt cluster lamp telltale operation (which stays on even after the engine starts and until the driver buckles up) and steel side-guard door beams and structural reinforcements.

Chrysler showrooms are located at Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Cebu and Iloilo.

Authorities . . .

(From page B16)

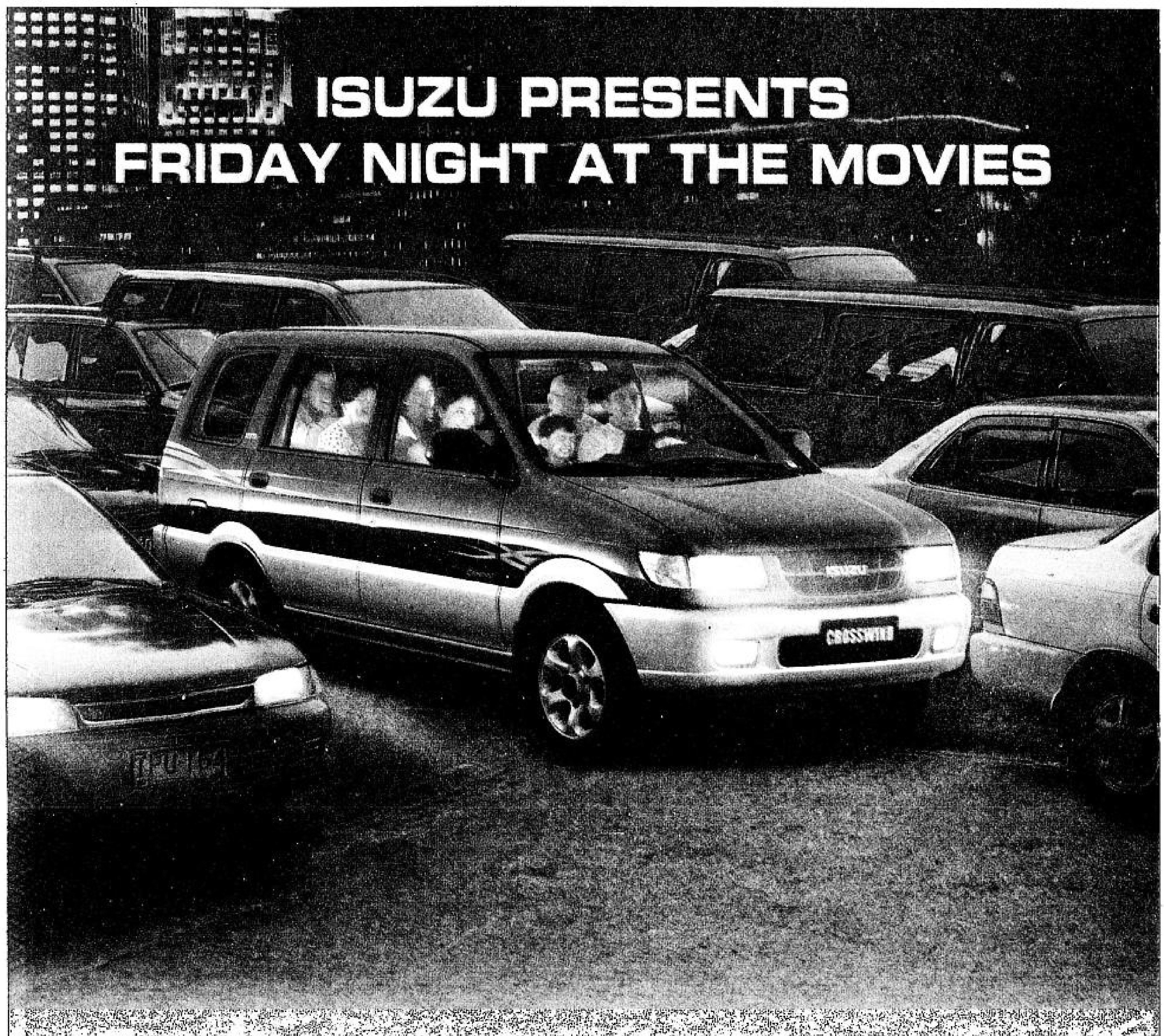
acronym stands for Battery, Light, Oil, Water, Brake, Air pressure of tires, Gas and Accessories such as tools and flashlights.

- A driver should be free from the influence of drugs and alcohol. These could impair one's good judgment.
- Avoiding fixed-object collisions is one of the easiest to do: reduce speed, be alert for hazardous conditions and adjust your outside mirrors correctly.
- Treat motorcycles the same as an automobile. Pull completely into the left lane and do not squeeze or crowd motorcycles on the road.
- In approaching intersections, slow down, stop, look and listen. Show your intention by vehicle position and signals. And don't drive too cautiously, either. Overcautious drivers, who use brakes abruptly, are often bumped from behind.
- The best antidote for any dangerous road situation is defensive driving. Always be on the safe side, all the time. And that includes being a bit more giving (and forgiving) this holiday season.

ON THE ROAD

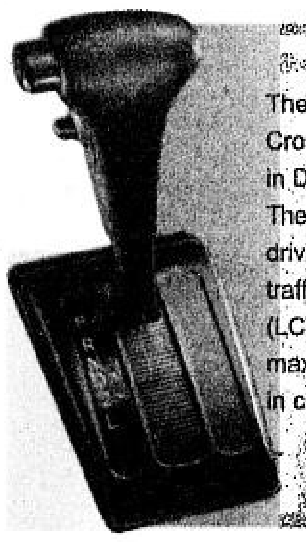
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AIDA Sevilla-Mendoza is out of the country. Her column will resume next week.

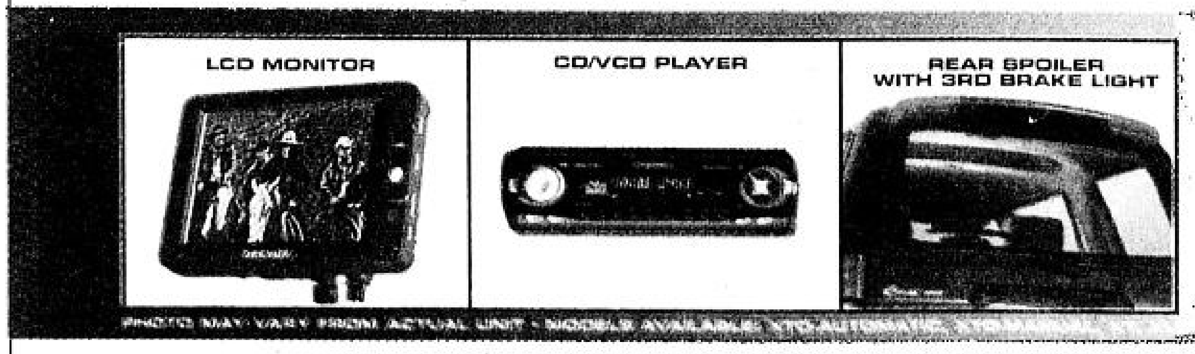


The new Isuzu Crosswind XTO-Automatic lets you enjoy your favorite movies even in traffic!

For a limited time, you can get a CD/VCD player, a high-resolution LCD monitor, and a sporty rear spoiler with the new Isuzu Crosswind XTO-Automatic. You can also get a rear spoiler with the XTO-Manual - all at no extra cost. Hurry! Offer good until October 31, 2001 only.



The new Isuzu Hi-Lander Crosswind XTO-Automatic comes in Diesel Automatic Turbo (DAT). The automatic transmission makes driving easier in stop-and-go traffic. The Low Charge Turbo (LCT) on the other hand delivers maximum fuel efficiency even in city driving.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1631, Series of 2001

Isuzu mounts turbocharger on Trooper, Fuego, Crosswind

ALONGSIDE the introduction of DAT (Diesel Automatic Turbo) technology across all vehicle platforms, Isuzu Philippines Corp. further rides the wave of technology with the application of forceful turbochargers in all its assemblage of Trooper, Fuego and Hi-lander Crosswind.

Creating a higher evolution of its series of SUV, pickups and multipurpose movers, the turbocharged Isuzu Direct Injection diesel engines fortify Isuzu's longstanding reputation of leadership in diesel engine performance, fuel efficiency and overall durability.

In general, turbochargers force-feed engines with pressurized air, results in greatly increased power at all engine speeds, regardless of driving conditions and altitude. On the other hand, nonturbo or naturally aspirated engines rely on atmospheric pressure to feed air into the engine's cylinders. This is why most nonturbo vehicles suffer from lack of power when driving at high speed.

With this is mind, Isuzu gives consumers unrivaled value for money with its turbocharger-mounted vehicle models. Starting with the reputable Hi-lander Crosswind, Isuzu lets motorists enjoy the many benefits of a low-charged turbo (LCT) in its vaunted 4JA1 direct injection diesel engine. The LCT in the Crosswind XTO, with a smaller-sized turbine and compressor, enhances torque and output to yield 85 horsepower output and 18.9 kg-m torque. This aids in counterweighing the performance loss created by the automatic transmission type in the Crosswind XTO.

Also, with the increased air intake in the 4JA1 engine in the Crosswind, efficient fuel combustion is achieved consequently giving unsurpassed fuel economy. And with the LCT facilitating an optimized combustion of fuel, the engine is assured of cleaner exhaust emissions.

On the other hand, Isuzu's series of Fuego pickups is endowed with the 4JB1 direct injection diesel engine boosted with a high-charged turbo (HCT). Compared to its nonturbo equivalent, the turbocharged 4JB1 engine has significantly increased torque and output of 23 kg-m/ 2,300 rpm and 100 ps/3,800 rpm, respectively. Larger sized turbine and compressor in an HCT translates to increased engine power, giving a diesel engine the responsiveness of a gas-fed type while maintaining high levels of fuel efficiency. Nonetheless, emission is greatly improved with the HCT contributing to a highly efficient combustion of fuel.

Finally, Isuzu coins in a technology breakthrough with the Trooper's 4JX1 DOHC diesel engine-powered with an Intercooled turbocharger. The finest of its breed, the intercooled turbocharger yields more power with 160 horsepower output and 34 kg-m of torque. Cleaner exhaust and excellent fuel economy are trademarks of the 4JX1 engine, with 50 percent less CO2 produced and 60 percent better fuel economy than gas engines, respectively.

Taking Isuzu movers to a much more upscale class of a vehicle, turbochargers in the Crosswind, Fuego and Trooper make them the practical choice for today's motorists. With the right balance of power, efficiency and economy, turbocharged Isuzu engines move ahead competition, giving unmatched value for money to the consumers.

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- Lower oil, engine & cylinder head operating temperature, MORE POWER
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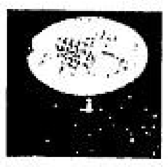
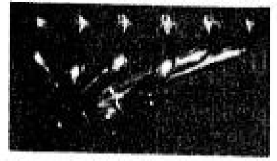
- Heat retention inside the combustion chambers, safety raises combustion temperature

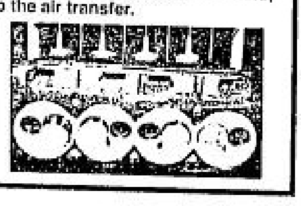
TURBOCHARGER HOUSING: *Ceramic*
- Faster spooling of the impeller (less: TURBO LAG)
- More horsepower, heat transfer to the compressor
- Reduce turbocharger housing temperature

EXHAUST HEADERS / TUBES: *CeramicChrome, Black Ceramic*
- Heat retention, reduced under-hood temperature, improved gas flow

THERMAL DISPERSANT
- A Black heat emitter applied to the exterior of valves, radiators, oil coolers, intercoolers, brake caliper housing radiating heat to the air transfer.







Jaguar Cars working to conserve living symbol

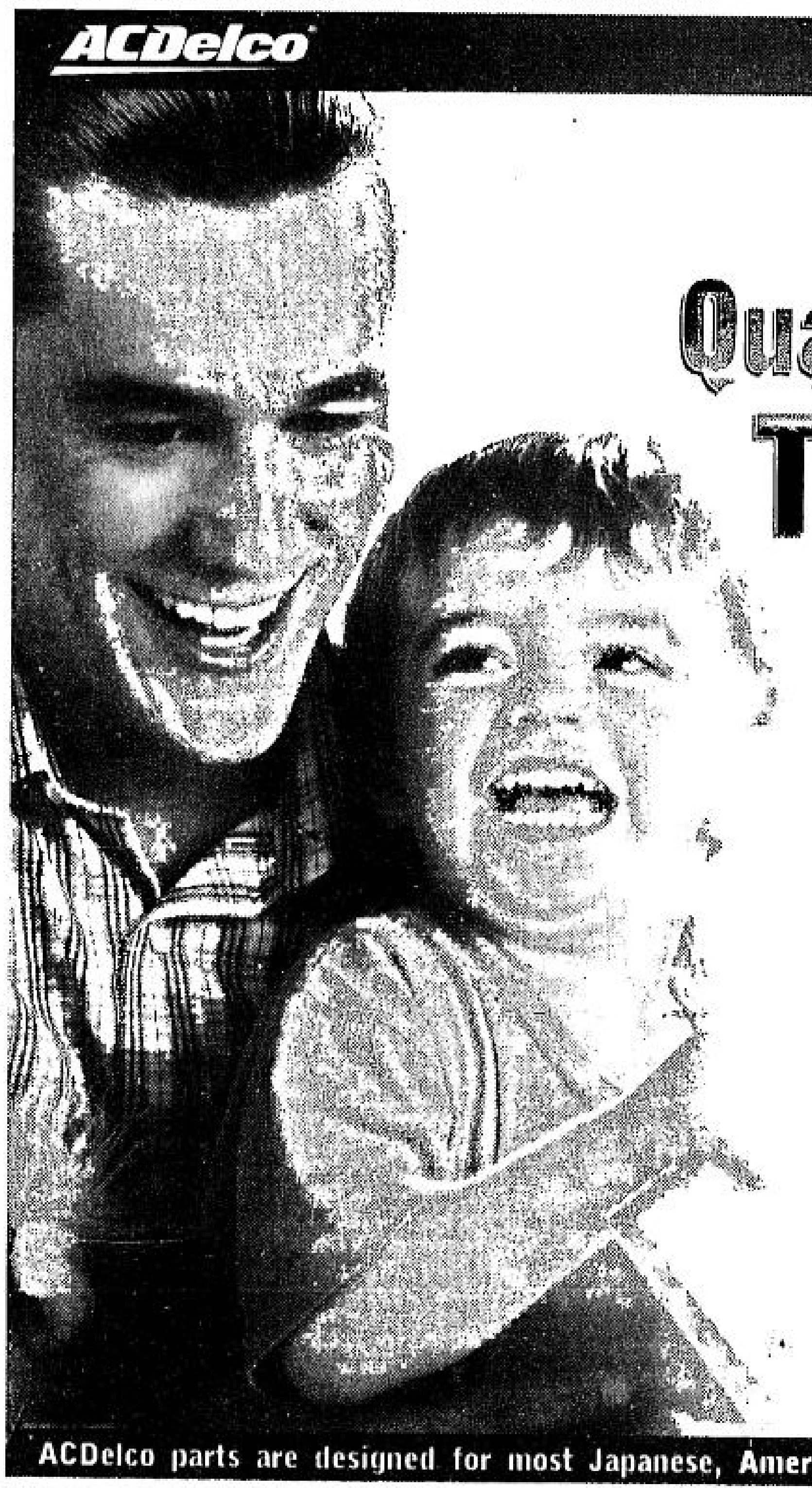
GUARANTEEING the protection of jaguars in the wild is continuing with the help of funding from Jaguar Cars.

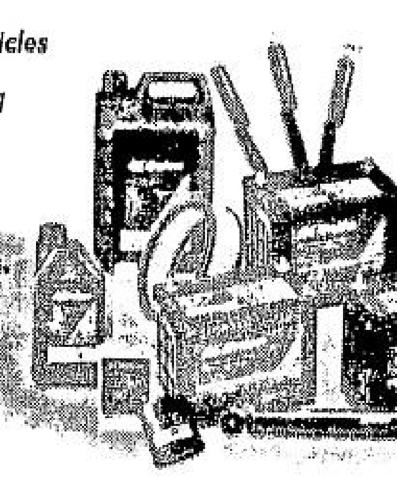
According to Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, the luxury car company's US$1 million contribution this past year is being used to get a precise idea of the jaguar's population levels throughout South America. Also under study are solutions to how jaguars and Brazilian farmers can coexist. Funding also goes to monitoring jaguar movements by radio collaring and using hidden cameras on known trails.

"In jaguar reserves, like the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary in Belize, we have been photographing tracks, matching them and analyzing the results on newly developed software," says Dr. Rabinowitz.

Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, Jaguar is helping its namesake with a unique project based in Chester Zoo in the North West of England.

Jaguar's donation of £1.9 million (about US$2.7 million) will be used to build a state-of-the-art rainforest exhibit and breeding environment for the cat in what is recognized as a leading center for zoological and conservation research.





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- ▸ Looks? Simply striking with its more attractive exterior design. The new painted bumpers and mirrors and a decorative stripe are real eye-catchers whenever the Vito's on the road.
- ▸ Interiors? The Vito has an ergonomic cockpit with automatic transmission and a practical dash-mounted joystick shifting lever so your eyes stay on the road.
- ▸ Well, of course, you can always expect more from a Mercedes-Benz. Find out when you test-drive the Vito at your nearest dealer!

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HONDA CR-V

Amazing staying power

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

HONDA'S CR-V has remained basically unchanged since it went into full production four years ago. Aside from its basically untainted reputation and rock solid reliability, it is easy to drive and is crammed with niceties, making it an extremely likeable SUV.

But why, you ask, are we writing about the CR-V, a vehicle that remains relatively unchanged since Day One? Are we running out of test-drive vehicles?

Definitely not. We decided to include the Honda CR-V despite its age because it continues to be a popular choice in the SUV sector. We are also amazed by its staying power. In the face of competition from Toyota and Subaru, it remains to be an attractive proposal. Finally, we owe it to this variant, as the last of the first real Honda SUV, because there's a rumor about an all-new replacement in the pipeline by the middle of 2002.

HONDA CR-V

Not an off-roader

Anti-CR-V pundits claim that it has absolutely no off-roading abilities. The Real Time 4WD will almost always fail to extricate the sleek Honda from sticky situations and there is less-than-desirable torque under the hood to perform real off-road tasks. Moreover, the RAV-4 and Subaru Forester, the critics say, now outperform the CR-V in more ways than one.

That however, is an unfair comparison, says Honda. The CR-V does not pretend to be an off-roader. In fact, one dealer, during a fierce exchange of ideas over lunch at a pizza place near Honda Makati, says the CR-V was built specifically as a good and reliable everyday vehicle that rides high and drives fast. Never did Honda pretend that it could scale Mt. Pinatubo, although fording streams and crossing tiny hills are included in its resumé.

Raul Ylanan (CR-V owner since 2000)**:** For me, though the argument may hold true, how many buyers will actually scale Mt. Arayat or cross the lahar rivers of Pampanga with their CR-V? You would be foolish to think that purchasing a CR-V will allow you to do serious off-roading. CR-V owners are more intelligent than that.

Danny Kawpeng (owner since 1998)**:** If I were looking for an off-roader that could do on-road duties, I would have chosen a Forester. But it wasn't available in 1998.

Raymond: It is very spacious. Lots of headroom and legroom and fairly wide doors for easy ingress and egress. Except for the manual CR-V, the shifter is on the steering column, allowing a flat floor and more room

Tessa: I found seating throughout quite comfortable. The upright seats provide a more chair-like feel. That gives better back support and doesn't make you literally "sink into the seats," so to speak. The high seating position results in great all-around visibility.

Donat Dominguez (owner since 1999)**:** The CR-V is like a minivan. Although I do not have my own family to tote around, I do have my brother and sisters to shuttle to school and office daily and the commute is made much better, thanks to the CR-V's tall ground clearance. If you live in Dasmariñas, Cavite and take on the humps and dips every day, you'll come to appreciate its smooth ride.

Raymond: If you think about it, the CR-V is the most dated of the mid-size SUVs. Toyota has released the revamped RAV-4 a little over a year ago and Subaru made a fantastic debut for its Forester a few months past. The other SUVs—the Expedition, Suburban and so on—are way out of this class. And the Isuzu Trooper and Mitsubishi Pajero, with their monstrous diesel power and down-to-earth drivetrains, cannot compete on technology but rather on simplicity. Compared to the RAV and the Forester, the Honda holds up pretty well.

Not many changes

Tessa: Since 1998, Honda's changes to its only SUV are minor. A few hops up here, a more affordable variant with black bumpers years back, the totally over-the-wall orange hued CR-V is complete with bullbars and bumper guards all around, and for the last quarter of 2001, a mobile video system.

Raymond: Automotive experts say that the CR-V is built on the Honda Civic platform. It actually is more Accord in many respects, and, not surprisingly, it feels a lot like a sedan.

Danny: I like the CR-V because it provides an Accord-like ride. It is basically an Accord that rides tall. I bought it not because I needed a four-wheel drive. I bought it because I felt it was functional and roomy. I have no complaints.

Tessa: It could very well be the subcompact of SUVs, the way it handles. The 2.0-liter engine churns out 146 hp. Enough numbers to adequately handle most of the obstacles that are thrown its way. And Honda claims you can tow 1,000 pounds.

Danny: I wish there were more torque and better brakes.

Raymond: I found the handling to be a too soggy for my liking. When I test-drove it in Caliraya years ago, I felt it to be a bit loose. But checking the NHTSA website revealed the CR-V ranked one of the highest in rollover resistance.

Not an SUV

Sandy L. (owner since 1999)**:** The CR-V is more like a car than an SUV. I can't help compare it to my brother's RAV, which feels a bit on the heavy side. *Parang mataba o malapad masyado.* The CR-V is thin, you have a lot of visibility. And the ride is nice and soft, soaking up bumps with ease. Braking is okay, too.

Raymond: It doesn't feel like a very substantial vehicle. I know I should not compare my recent encounter with it, I just came from driving an Expedition. And there's none of the invulnerable feeling of a big SUV.

Raul: That's part of its appeal. You can just as easily hand over the vehicle to your wife or girlfriend and they will not be intimidated at all.

Tessa: Suffice to say it could be an everyday vehicle for me, not too big, not too small, but just enough. No guilt feelings as I don't occupy road-hugging proportions on our Third World-sized highways. The high-ground clearance fits well during floods.

Sandy: There are so many storage bins in the CR-V. I've got containers for chips and cookies, water bottles stored under the seats, jackets, instant coffee, magazines, books…why, even a needlework kit for those really long trips

Donat: I don't like the rear door. It seems so complicated. You need to open the rear window first then swing open the door, that is so heavy because of the spare wheel.

Raul: That is a price you have to pay for the other conveniences it provides. You have to learn to live with less amenities. But the no frills approach—it is not as well appointed as, say a RAV-4, but in this case, less is best. It also gives you the impression that it is well thought of and definitely better bolted together.

Raymond: Styling is not as funky as the RAV. Conservative. Very Honda-like. I heard the new 2002 CR-V, which is built on the same platform, will provide more visual excitement. Wonder when that is coming out locally?

Honda dealer: There is no word from the factory yet. And that is the truth. Even we would like to see a new CR-V, even if this current model is still a top seller. There is no way but up in terms of technologies and improvements.

Arnel Doria (Honda's marketing communications boss, in an e-mail)**:** The situation is volatile.

In conclusion

Despite minimal change in form and content, the CR-V continues to dominate. What is obvious though is that that shiny Honda badge continues to reign in this department And that is enough to satisfy most SUV buyers. We rate the Honda CR-V an **8 out of 10 total points.** Almost every owner we interviewed wished for more power and rated the CR-V in the mid-5 to 6 points in this area. But raters agree that for build-quality, on-road performance, overall appeal and price, the CR-V is tops.

World's most admired motor show

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

NAGOYA, Japan—This city has not stopped amazing me. The first time I was here was in 1999. It was a fleeting visit, but the memories remain in my heart with fondness. Large plazas laden with old trees. Wide roads not crowded with cars of varying models.

Traffic lights with singing birds when the green light is on. Before the red light flashes, you first hear the sound of a crowing rooster. In short, this city is huge but its ambience is still rustic. You barely feel the bustle of a city, the hustle of people. Even in the city's so-called crowded district, you hardly see people jostling for positions on the wide-body pavements. Men and women, children and adults, they ride their bikes with constant glee. Rain or shine. Seemingly, the bike is this city's main mode of transportation—even as the country's latest car models abound in the streets.

It's really nice to be back. Even if I'm staying here for only a day. I'm having a layover before—yes, you guessed it right—I took a bullet train for Tokyo for the 35th Tokyo Motor Show—my fifth stint in the world's most attended Motor Show.

Want more facts about the Tokyo Motor Show? It is not only the world's most admired Motor Show. It is also one of the five majors to include the great Motor Shows of Geneva, Paris, Frankfurt and Detroit. There's one also in Beijing but the Tokyo Motor Show, held once in two years, draws one of the biggest—if not the biggest—assemblies of motoring journalists around the world. From Manila to Milan, from Paris to Panama, from Johannesburg to Jamaica, from Vancouver to Versailles, name it, they are all here. No less than 10,000 motoring writers from all parts of the world converge here to gawk at the latest cars, the concept cars and the futuristic vehicles—many of them invented primarily to shape the future of world technology in land movement powered by machine.

The first time I was at the Tokyo Motor Show in 1993, I was awe-struck. Never did I imagine that I would be looking at brand-new models—from such Asian car giants like Toyota, Nissan, Mitsubishi and Honda—to such luxury cars like Bugatti, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Benz, Jaguar, Porsche and models from America's Top Three: GM, Ford and Chrysler. Incidentally, the latest figures show that Toyota has dislodged Chrysler from the No. 3 position. Cheers to that!

* * *

The Tokyo Motor Show is held at the Makuhari Messe, which is just outside Tokyo. Thousands view the latest in car, bus and motorcycle technology—not to mention car stereos and tires and many other vehicle accessories—daily from Oct. 22 to Nov. 7. On display are models up to 2002 that are already on sale, models up to 2006 still on the planning stage and the so-called concept cars that might be built next year or maybe much later. It could be in 2004 or even 2014. Concept cars are virtually the futuristic cars.

It's really a thrill seeing the concept cars as well as the latest models which will be sold starting next year. Once you enter the Tokyo Motor Show grounds in Makuhari Messe, it feels like you are in a different planet. You are surrounded by everything new.

Suddenly, everything around you is completely different. It makes you salivate just seeing the cars that you suddenly find yourself mumbling: "I'll work harder next year so that I can buy this car right here in front of me now!" You get lost in the scheme of themes, buddy.

* * *

But back to this city of bikes and museums that boasts of being the sister museum of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, USA. Permanently on exhibit are masterpieces selected from the collection of nearly 500,000 works from the Boston Museum.

Not only that.

This city is where your Corolla, the world's best-selling passenger car, is being manufactured—at the Toyota Takaoka Plant. Also a historic landmark here is the Toyota Automobile Museum, where Toyota's car history is stored and on display—from Toyota's first car production in 1890 up to the present. Side by side with this cherished property of the city is the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Boy, if only for the two, you wouldn't want to leave this place for the next two weeks or so.

You cannot finish viewing both museums in two days.

You'd be lost in the magic of time once you enter either of the two.

* * *

And, oops, before I forget, I filed this column with a big, big help from Ariel de Jesus, Danny Isla's point man for this year's Toyota-Media sojourn to the Tokyo Motor Show. It was Ariel who brought me to Kinko's in the dead of night to file this piece via the magic of e-mail. I did it after a sumptuous dinner of Kisoji (shabu-shabu). The 10-minute walk from the restaurant to Kinko's business center (open 24 hours a day like all the Kinko's of America) under a drizzle was truly enervating.

Again, cheers to you, Ariel. Fukuda-san—if not Alfred Ty—should give you a raise when we come back from the Tokyo Motor Show.

* * *

QUOTE ME: **Every visit to a car plant is an addition to your cache of knowledge in car technology.**

Helpful hints for driving during All Saints' Day

FILIPINOS celebrate All Saints' Day like all typical Pinoy holidays. This means observance alongside merriment of religious duties to loved ones who have passed on to the afterlife. Scenes in cemeteries are more relaxed and joyial, rather than mournful. But while families, relatives and friends troop to the cemeteries, they are still a huge cause of concern on the nation's highways. Everyone knows the roads are a traffic hell for all motorists and commuters this time of the year.

Prestone Brake Fluid, the country's top brand for brake fluids, offers the following tips to give ease to Pinoy motorists on the road come Nov. 1:

- Leave in plenty of time before going to your destination. Expect roads to be crowded, and traffic to be usually bad, so allot some time before you leave for the cemetery or even more time in case you're going home to the province.
- Check your vehicle's tire pressure, fan belts, engine hoses and fluid levels before the trip. Make sure the spare tire is inflated and emergency tools are in the trunk. You don't want to get stuck on the highway with a stalled car.
- Stack and secure candles, food, tables and chairs properly in the back of your car or pickup. Also, bring a bottle of Prestone Brake Fluid for your brake reservoir and Prestone II Longlife Coolant concentration for your radiator. They may come in handy during emergency situations. Make sure you brought everything you need for the trip.
- On the road, leave plenty of room between your car and other vehicles in case of sudden stops. Make sure your brake fluid is working perfectly. Watch out for pedestrians and street peddlers who will be swarming the streets.
- If taking a long trip, take frequent breaks to do some stretching and to avoid fatigue. Stop for snacks or lunch at restaurants along the highway.
- The safest place for children to ride is in the back seat, so make sure they are properly secured in a seatbelt or child safety seat.
- Stay out of the "no zone," the dangerous areas around large trucks. Trucks have deep blind spots in the rear and side areas. They also sometimes make wide turns, which may cause accidents to careless drivers.
- The holidays can produce stress, which is reflected in the way we drive. According to a survey abroad, 41 percent of respondents report experiencing road rage during the holidays, and 25 percent said that worrying about meeting all commitments during the holidays most likely causes them to experience road rage during the holidays. Condition yourself to being patient and cool during the trip to avoid getting swayed by foolish emotions.
- After the trip, don't drive when you have been drinking or when you're exhausted. Despite the crackdown on alcohol in cemeteries, some stubborn Pinoys insist on drinking even during All Saints' Day. This is particularly recurrent during the holidays, but increased traffic makes this particularly dangerous. Drivers should take extra caution to ensure the safety of everyone in the vehicle.

Drag race emerging as family sport

CAR racing is fast evolving into a family sport and leisure activity.

Such is the impression one gets in watching any of the many motorsports events being staged at the 25-meter-wide and 1.55-km-long Road-G of the Manila Harbour Centre, or MHC.

Both race participants and spectators come with their families to enjoy the breathtaking action on MHC's well-paved bayside road, which also provides promenaders a front-seat view of the famous Manila Bay sunset.

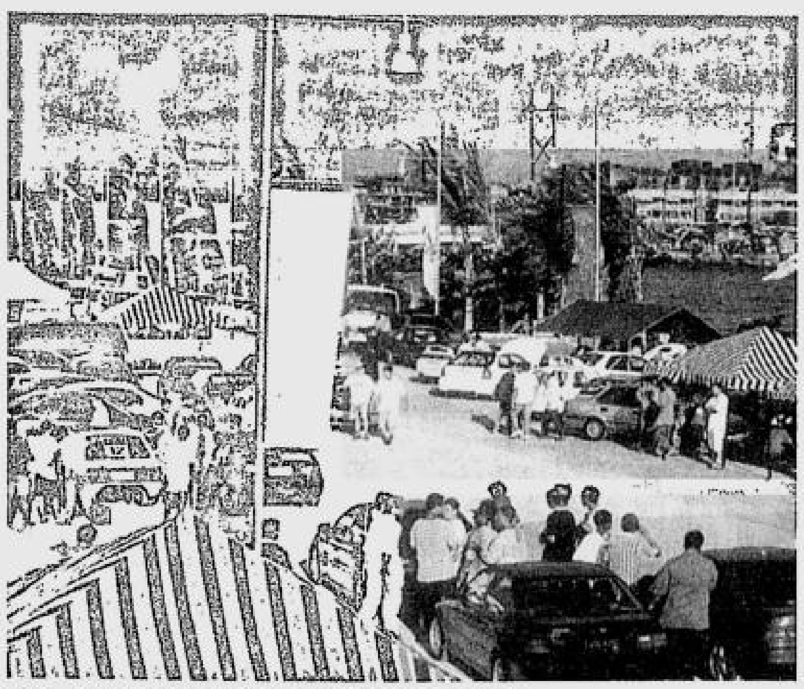
And why not?

"It is here where you get to witness drag racing that conforms with the safety standards of the Philippine Motoring Association which is not assured when you race on the streets of E. Rodriguez Avenue in Libis and Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City," says Susan F. Romero, president of Landtrade Properties and Marketing Corp., which markets the MHC and manages its various sports and leisure events.

"On top of it all, you have plenty of parking spaces, and a fully secured and clean environment," Romero adds.

Comparing it with the Pomona Raceway in California and the Texas Motorflex, Romero says MHC's leisure park has emerged to be the country's newest and premier venue for motorsports events, race clinics and performance tests for all types of automobiles.

Every race has a maximum of 90 participating vehicles and a minimum of 400 spectators of all ages, many of whom are students, young professionals and businessmen who come from all over Metro Manila and from as far as Baguio and other provinces in Central and Southern Luzon.


THE FIESTA atmosphere during race events

So far, it is the only strip being used officially by accredited drag racing organizers like the Philippine Drag Racing Familysport (PDRF) and PRO Speed, which stage monthly races at the MHC.

Just recently, a series of spectacular races was held by both groups—the PDRF last Sept. 1 and 15, and the PRO Speed last Sept. 8.

The other racing stints were organized by Club 200, Activity Asia Association, Auto Rally Club of the Philippines, and Volkswagen Club of the Philippines.

There were also the Defensive and Evasive Driving Course, Land Cruiser Challenge, Defensive Driving Program, and the 4th season of the Honda City Media Challenge.

For the rest of the year, the PDRF will stage racing events on Oct. 26, Nov. 10 and 24, and Dec. 15; and the PRO Speed on Nov. 3.

These exciting activities have been going on since 1998, when race buffs and their families found the MHC to be the ideal venue for that kind of sport.

Yet, the MHC's leisure park is not confined to motorsports. It has been the site of the historic Manila-Acapulco Centennial Regatta, and home to such cultural events as kite flying and tiburin racing.

"The long-haul plan includes an auto mall, which is conceptualized to be the most complete and organized auto service center in the Philippines, catering to all types of automobiles, including high- performance racing cars. This automobile-oriented complex is intended to be one of the many first-world facilities that will rise at the MHC," Romero adds.

The auto mall will be built not quite far from the race strip, which is located at the MHC's Port Business District, a 32-hectare prime property that will serve as commercial, corporate, financial and recreational hub.

Comprising a total of 79 hectares, the MHC includes a 10-hectare Harbour Centre Port Terminal, which is destined to be the country's most modern passenger and cargo-shipping complex.

The other 37 hectares make up the MHC's environment-friendly Harbour Centre Industrial Park, which will serve as the metropolis' manufacturing, warehousing and logistics capital.

Metro Manila's first special economic zone and the country's only master-planned port city development, the MHC is strategically located at the heart of the most densely populated area in the metropolis, and well within the port zone of Manila.

"When fully developed the 'Port City' promises to be the center of all commercial, corporate, recreational and family activities in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) and Manila area," Romero adds before joining her family and the rest of the crowd at the race strip.

When does one need to stop driving?

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

MANG Atong, 65, was driving his Sentra through heavy Tandang Sora traffic one hot Thursday when he suddenly "gone blind." He managed to stop his vehicle before hitting the slow-moving jeepney in front. Parked haphazardly by the roadside, he succeeded in flagging down a taxi that brought him back home two kilometers away. Later he was diagnosed as having had a mild stroke and was lucky to have made it out alive.

Rolly Marino, 60, who describes himself as fit, regularly drives to Tagaytay using an automatic transmission Mitsubishi Space Gear. He claims not to have any trouble driving but avoids the "stresses of traffic" by "leaving early" and "going home late." He says that though he is physically fit, he does not want to drive in heavy traffic anymore.

Anita Mendez (not her real name), 66, had a stroke while driving home from Makati to Mandaluyong. Luckily her 12-year-old granddaughter was with her at the time and the light traffic averted a disaster. Today she never drives and rarely travels, citing the "stresses of traveling" as a contributing factor to her deteriorating health.

The inevitable effects of aging definitely affect driving. Depending on the physical and psychological state of the driver, driving becomes less enjoyable and more of a chore because of the added exertion required. Moreover, the stresses of daily traffic produce psychological tensions that far outweigh the physical limitations.

With age comes experience?

Presumably, drivers who have reached the age of 60 or 70 would have acquired a wealth of motoring experience that allows them to be not only safer drivers but also more patient ones. Based on this theory, older drivers are less likely to have an accident than younger, less experienced drivers. (For clarity, the definition of an "elder" driver is 60 years old and up. This age range has been chosen because most of the physical and functional impairments occur within this bracket.)

Much is expected from older drivers in terms of driving maturity. A study by the British RAC points to the low accident rate involving senior citizens and the "elderly."

"Older drivers are presumed to be more mature and experienced," remarks Dr. Loida Bonnin, who specializes in physical therapy in a Cavite hospital. "But they should also realize that there are physical limitations that can make driving dangerous to them and to others."

According to a study by the American National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) drivers, aged 60 years and over tend to show less road anger and are involved in less than one percent of all road rage cases in over 30 states in the United States.

But another study provides a dark side to the picture.

While it is true that the actual number of accidents for older drivers is low, with drivers over 70 years old, the proportion of those involved in accidents rises dramatically. In fact, statistics show it is comparable to that of young drivers.

Same statistics also show that older drivers are more likely to be involved in two-vehicle accidents than either middle-age or younger drivers. And they are more often involved in side impact accidents, often the result of an illegal left turn.

Functional disabilities

Clinical studies from abroad show that vision, hearing, motor-reaction time and certain cognitive abilities may decline with age. Though there are exceptions to this rule, a majority of drivers over 60 do have some form of physical impairment, illness or attention deficiency that may make driving hazardous.

Moreover, older people are more prone to disease. And in most cases, studies show that poor driving is directly related to these impairments—especially those illnesses involving a decline in hearing, visual acuity or reaction times. Reduction of visual and cognitive abilities makes processing hazard cues entering the field of vision difficult.

Observation errors and misinterpretation of information are common factors in accidents involving older drivers. Since reaction times get slower with age, a prudent driver should be prepared to make adjustments necessary when age-related changes affect safe driving performance.

Older drivers are often unaware of the effects that medicines (prescribed or otherwise) can have on their concentration. A consultation with the doctor about the side effects of any medication is recommended.

Of course, not all the elderly experience these impairments.

Up until last year, multiawarded race driver Pocholo Ramirez, 65, was still beating drivers half his age in 45 minutes of intense circuit racing. Ramirez who has experienced the "normal" illnesses of his age, still plays several sets of tennis daily and drives to Subic almost every weekend. He however has reduced his seat time by half and does not race professionally anymore. He feeds on a diet of mostly vegetables and fish, never smokes, and drinks moderately. He recently won the Honda EcoChallenge (a fuel economy race) to Club Malarayat in Batangas.

Those who do experience more than one illness are unlikely to experience them simultaneously. Furthermore, the degrees by which these impairments are experienced vary greatly among individuals.

"I found out I needed to stop driving when I could not get out of the garage in reverse without straining my neck," comments accountant Ramon Alano, 63. "After having driven for over 40 years, I felt I had to give it up, even if I enjoyed doing it."

Physical impairments

Ford Motor Co. last September unveiled a special body suit that simulates the driving experience of elderly people. Ford calls the apparatus the Third Age Suit. Its ergonomic engineers said they are using it to develop vehicles "for customers as much as 30 years older than they are."

The suit was designed to develop systems that will not only improve driving for the elderly but will also help lessen vehicle-related stresses to younger drivers. These systems when completed will not only help reduce the risks of driving but also improve total vehicle ergonomics.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPHANIEBRAVO

One of the diseases the special body suit should address is arthritis or stiffness. This disease restricts movements and the ability to make effective observations. It can also greatly affect vehicle-handling skills—a big cause of accidents—according to the NHTSA. There are special accessories designed to meet the needs of older drivers. A general practitioner can advise on exercises that can also help.

Sight, hearing and judgment of speed and distance are not quite clear as in people over 60 compared to those 25 years old and up. Since these are all vital factors in driving, any change or deterioration also decreases driving abilities and safety.

A regular eyesight checkup with a qualified ophthalmologist is highly recommended. Difficulty in driving in bright sunlight or at night is particularly dangerous. Risks are increased exponentially with eye problems such as glaucoma.

What you can do

The National Policy Center of Women and Aging and the American Automobile Association (AAA) recommend the following:

- **Have your eyes tested periodically.** Your visual acuity and visual field tend to decrease as you age.
- **Make sure your windshield is clean and your wipers are effective.** You can help yourself by ensuring an unobstructed view.
- **Clean the lenses of your headlights periodically.** Dirty lenses can decrease illumination dramatically. Not only will you see better at night, but also other drivers will see you better.
- **Avoid glare.** As people age, their ability to recover from glare decreases. If you must drive at night, give yourself enough time for your eyes to adjust to decreased light. If you can, avoid left lane driving. When confronting oncoming traffic, try not to look directly at it. Also, make sure you have and carry a good pair of sunglasses for day glare.
- **Avoid inclement weather.** Take advantage of any opportunity you might have of not driving in a storm. If you must drive in the rain or snow, use your headlights.
- **Reduce distractions**. Keep radios and air-conditioning or heater blowers low to reduce noise. If traveling with a companion, partner up by having him/her help look for signs and/or for other traffic and obstructions as you are backing or turning.
- **Communicate**. Use proper signaling and the horn if needed. Always let other drivers and pedestrians know what you intend to do.
- **Drive smart**. Always check traffic when changing lanes. Always look back when backing up. Use your mirrors. Use your turn signals.
- **Listen.** Listen to family, friends, your medical, professional and law enforcement officials regarding driving problems they have observed. No one wants to take you off the road unnecessarily. If someone says you have a problem, maybe it is time to stop and listen.

Mitsubishi exports Adventure to Sudan

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. announced that it has initially exported two units of the Mitsubishi Adventure to DAL Motor Co. Ltd., a Mitsubishi Motors distributor in Sudan. The MMPC expressed confidence that this initial export will lead to increased volume orders. DAL Motor officials have similarly expressed their optimism that the Mitsubishi Adventure will be positively received in Sudan.

DAL Motor currently holds the second biggest share in the Sudan automotive market and is looking at the Mitsubishi Adventure to secure market leadership.

The MMPC also announced that DAL Motor would be sending service technicians to the MMPC early next year for training on after-sales service.

The Philippine government has high expectations that AUVs like the Mitsubishi Adventure have good chances of becoming a competitive Philippine export. In addition to foreign exchange earnings from exports, the export of AUVs will be a boost to local parts manufacturers.

The AUVs are currently the most preferred vehicle in the Philippine market today with 30 percent share of total vehicles sold up to end August this year. They continue to gain market acceptance considering its functionality as a people transporter and cargo carrier.

GRAND FEATURES. GRAND CHOICES.*
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GRAND VITARA

Power mode selector switch
Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive
A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Chassis to body mounts.
Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Micron air filter
Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventilation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct ignition system
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenace costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace
A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Multi-reflector headlamps
Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

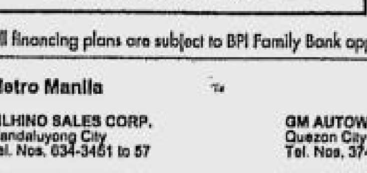
Liquid filled motor mounts
Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Two-speed tranfer case
Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self,adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

Full frame with crumple zones
The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

Fashionable and sporty



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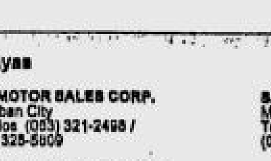

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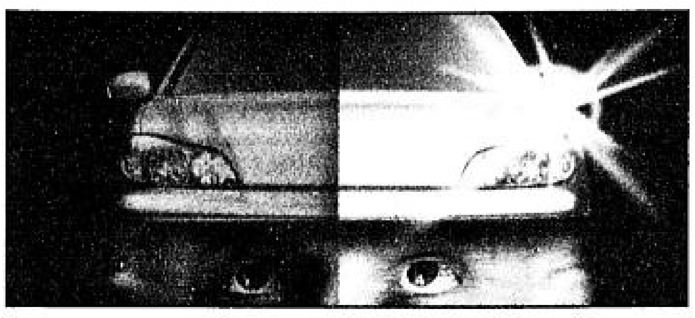

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Authorities call for sobriety on the road

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

EVERYONE is gearing up for the coming long holidays: All Souls' Day, All Saints' Day, and the Yuletide. Families are preparing for the long drive out of the metropolis, and law enforcers on main arteries leading to and from the cities and cemeteries are preparing themselves (hopefully) for the snowballing traffic jams on the marked days.

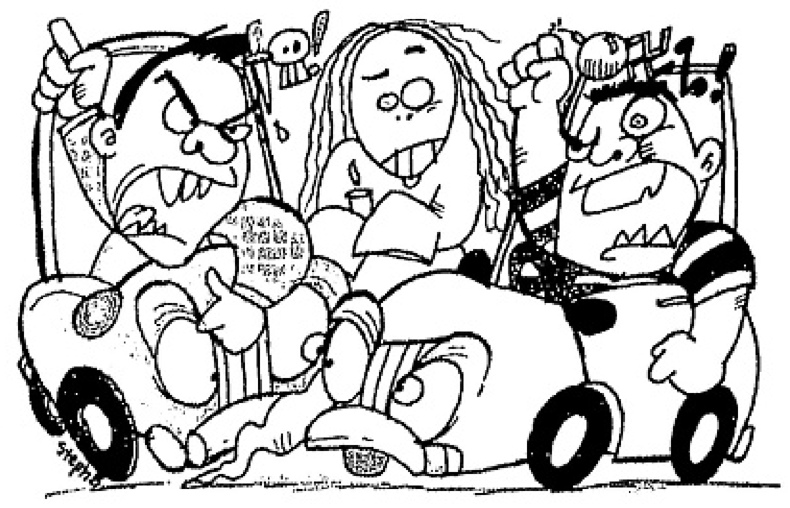

ILLUSTRATION: STEPHANIE BRAVO

The long holidays should intimately connect us to our set traditional values. It is a time when we get to know our hometown, establish affinity with our relatives and friends as well as remember departed loved ones.

And since we have a highly mobile society, where we rush from one place to another with relative ease, we brave the traffic and the occasional inconveniences to fulfill social and spiritual obligations and habits.

There is one habit we could very well live without—and that is selfishness on the road. Selfishness drives motorists to fight (and die for) for parking space. Selfishness drives jeepney operators and drivers to overload their vehicles with passengers in the hope of increasing profits per trip, but at the same time sacrificing passenger safety and comfort. It is this same attitude which makes drivers of public vehicles leave everything to chance and fail to do pre-trip inspections. And when accidents happen, limbs are broken and lives are lost. All because of the selfishness of a few.

Lives of both motorists and commuters are being put unnecessarily at risk during these hectic occasions. For the lack of an efficient database compiling road accidents and its true causes, the following published news items should serve sufficient warning for travelers—whether they'd be driving or being driven by someone else.

A Dagupan City-bound bus lost its brakes and skidded on the Marcos Highway in Tuba town the night of Oct. 30, 1999. The following day, Oct. 31, a passenger jeepney fell into a ravine in Itogon town. The two vehicular accidents claimed 26 lives.

The following day—All Souls' Day—a private jeep carrying a family of four turned turtle near the Lion's Head marker on Kennon Road.

The situation has also proven deadly—even after the observation of the Day for the Dead. A Sunshine bus plunged into a 200-meter ravine on Halsema Highway in Atok town in Benguet at 6:30 a.m., Nov. 4, 1999. It claimed 15 lives, including that of an eight-month-old baby. The accident injured 28 others.

The day before, in Davao City, vehicular accidents claimed eight lives. A Bachelor bus collided with a passenger jeepney on the national highway.

Would you like to become part of these grim scenarios?

- Some words of admonition: If you're going on a provincial trip, don't forget the "BLOWBAGA"—the universal code of pre-trip inspection for your vehicles. The

AUTHORITIES/B12

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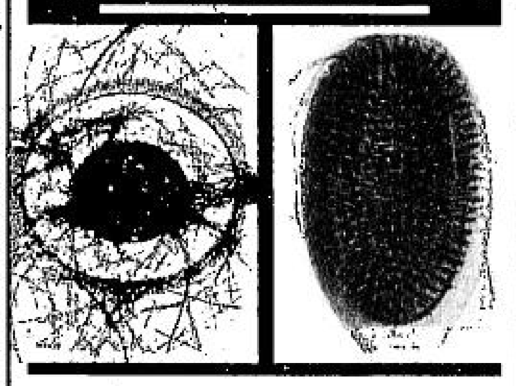

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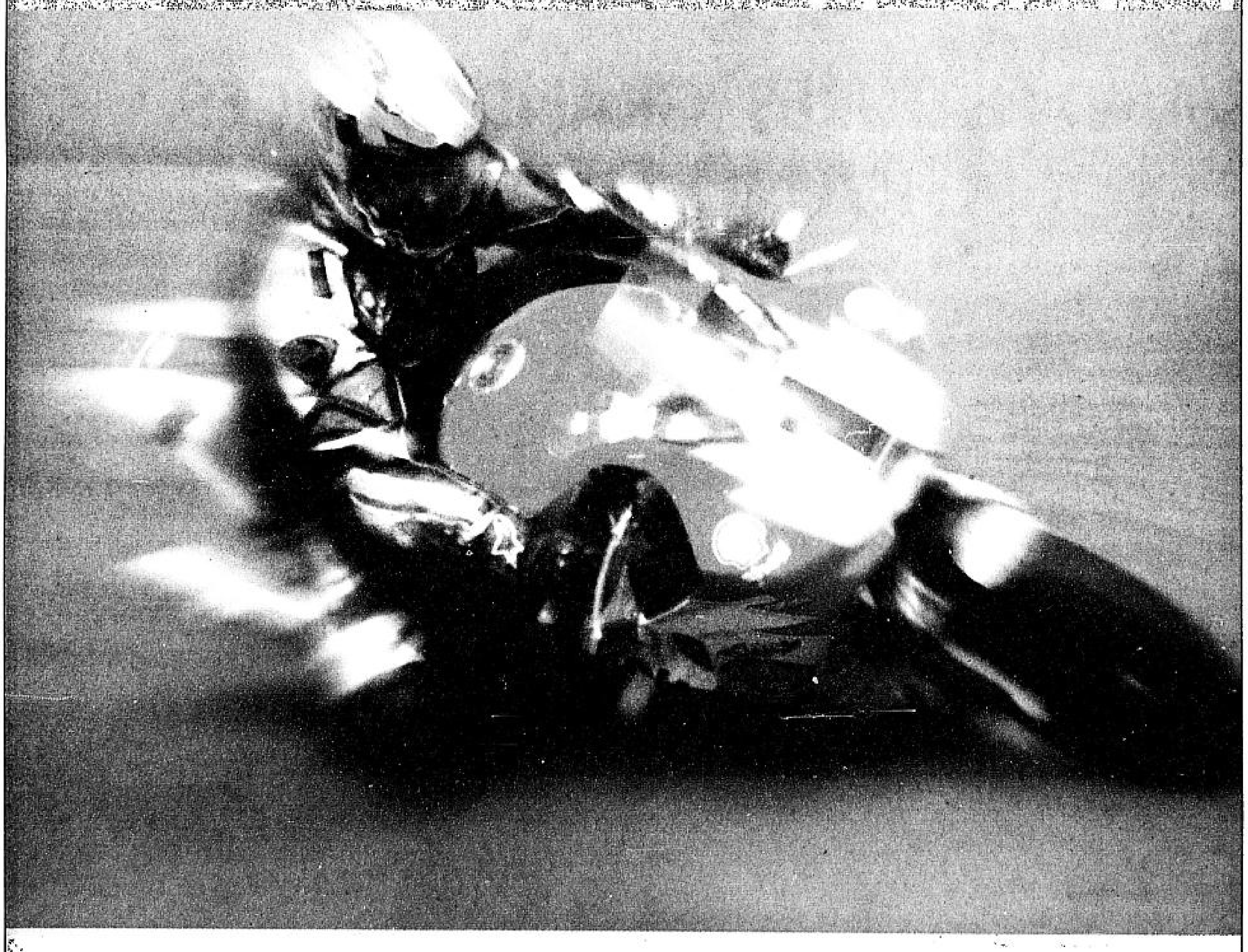

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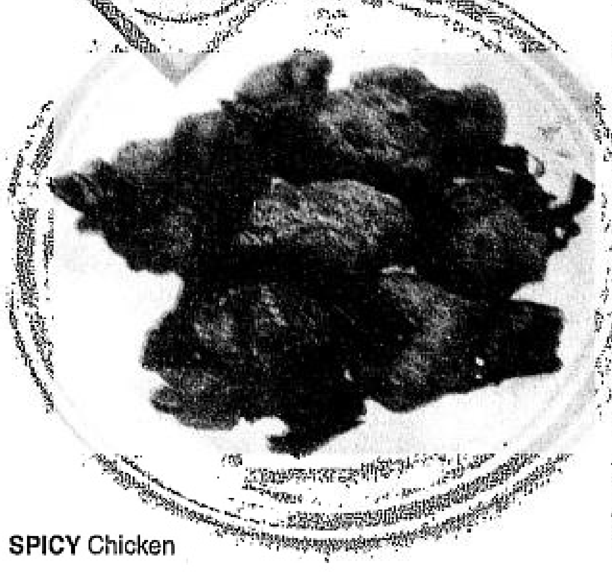
Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



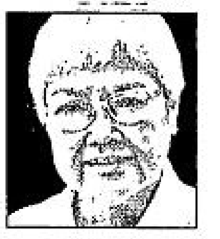
SPICY Chicken

Here's a yummy anthology of what and who is cooking around town and beyond

Bite by byte

THE COUNTRY Chef. Time was when the best Filipino food in town was at Rudy Siojo's Country Chef on Bohol Avenue, beside ABS-CBN. People flocked there for one of the first dishes of Day Old Chicks (male chicks, generally thrown into the sea, because they were not going to become layers), and Cerkely, the Bulakenyo beef *dinuguan*, and even for a heavenly *sinangag* with very fine toasted garlic.

IN GOOD TASTE



Doreen G. Fernandez

It closed when Rudy Siojo found other interests, but the good news is that after 10 years, his children have reopened it as a take-out restaurant at 20 Scout Limbaga corner Scout Santiago (tels. 371-6850 and 371-6891). They deliver packed lunches and Country Chef *bibingka* mostly to office workers around the T. Morato, Timog and Roces Avenue areas. Marisa is the main operator, assisted by her sisters Lorna and Rio. They have set up three tables for those who want to taste the food before placing their final orders.

We ordered food for a party for our Cambodian guests, and were absolutely pleased with the rich, dark Beef Caldereta, the Ti-im na Manok (a recipe inherited from a Bulakenya great-great grandmother), Nilasing na Kuaket (marine shrimps or *suahe* drunk with liquor), Spicy Pusit with Fried Spinach Leaves, Ginataang Langka and Gulaman at Sago.

Bailon. That is a name to reckon with in Bacolod for *piaya*, the flat wheat cake filled with *muscovado* syrup and sprinkled with sesame seeds. Maica Bailon called and brought me samples of what they offer here in Manila: *lumpiang ubod, empanada, panara, pancit molo,* pork *dinuguan, siomai,* chicken/*bangus relleno,* cassava cake, *piaya* and more.

Who is cooking? Maica's *Nanay*, Fely Besus, who had learned the Ilonggo specialties from Maica's Nana (grandmother), Concepcion M. Bailon. Maica's own mother (Esperanza Vargas Bailon) did not cook, but took care of the business. Her father Roberto and his sisters are all proficient cooks with their own specialties.

Nanay's *pancit chowmein* was originally called *pancit efuven,* and she explains that the Ilonggo way includes such condiments as chicken and pork liver, pork, shrimp, squid balls, *tengang daga,* carrots, cabbage, *chicharo,* Baguio beans and *patola* (the indispensable Ilonggo ingredient). Orders may be placed by calling 843-6673 or 843-3721 or going to 1115 Rodriguez Ave.,

BITE/p. C3

BINAGOONGAN Baboy

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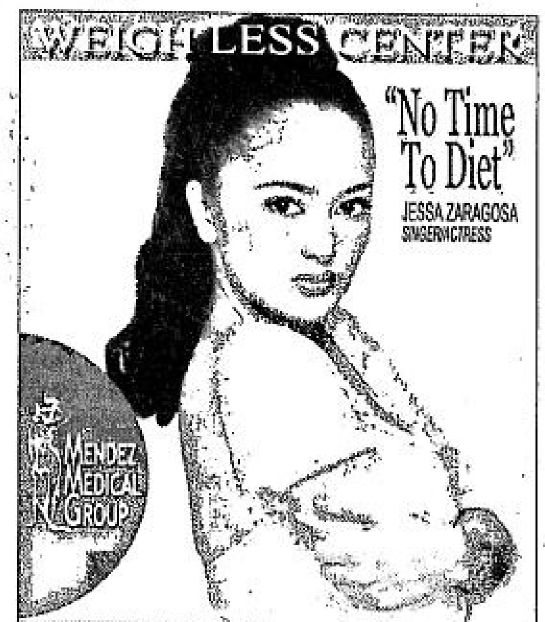

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Island Cove offers 10 ways to enjoy oysters. The menu includes Rockefeller, steamed and *kinilaw* and new oyster dishes especially concocted by Island Cove's very own chefs. Try Golden Parmesan Oysters, Tri-Color Oyster Salad, Oysters Mornay, Triple-T Oysters, Oysters Provençal, Oysters and Seafood Jardiniere and Oysters à la Cove. The dishes are priced from P140-P200.

What's more, you get a free glass of either white wine, SMB or iced tea for every oyster dish you order.

Visit Island Cove at Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite or call (046) 434-0210; Makati sales office 810-3740/3718/3732/3764/5638. Visit www.islandcovephil.com or e-mail islacove.info.oom.ph

Dig up those Halloween masks and head to a resto

DINING OUT

TEQUILA Joe's, the funky Tex-Mex hub, will celebrate Halloween from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 and will give away treats and trinkets if you show them those tricks and witch's hats when you visit them on these dates. Groups consisting a minimum of three and a maximum of five persons will be challenged to toss down a 750 ml bottle of tequila in 15 minutes. Whoever finishes the bottle within the time limit will be given a 50-percent discount on their initial orders. The next challenge comes after the five fastest groups get noted. A representative from each of these groups will be challenged once again to swig 10 shots of tequila in only 2.5 minutes. The fastest drinker gets his initial orders absolutely for free plus P1,000 worth of TJ's gift certificate.

Tequila Joe's is located at the El Pueblo in Ortigas Center, Glorietta 4 in Makati, and Alabang Town Center. For delivery, call Tequila Joe's Worm on Wheels at 850-4798/9513 (Alabang), 636-3599/3572 (El Pueblo) and 893-3777 or 812-0444 (Glorietta).

BAKED chicken marinated with Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and garden herbs is served at Il Sole Ristorante in Cebu. Enjoy a sumptuous meal at Il Sole, David's Steak & Seafood and Mi Vida and support a halfway home for Cebu's wayward children. The three top Cebu restos join with Lea & Perrins, Zee Quarterly and Freeman newspaper. Offer runs until Nov. 15. Call David's Steak & Seafood at 231-0157, Mi Vida at 234-2393 or Il Sole at 412-7060.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN will be giving away goody bags with assorted trinkets and sweets to kids who will come in costumes along with their family and friends on Oct. 31. Two winners for best in costume will be chosen per CPK branch. Each winner will receive P500 worth of gift certificates. And as an added treat, participants who are nonmembers of the CPKids Club will instantly become members. CPK branches are located at Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center and Shangri-La Plaza. CPK delivers. Call 893-9999/9888 (Makati), 850-6752/5771 (Alabang) or 687-7841/7842 (Shangri-La).

ANTONELLI'S CAFE RISTORANTE has created the Daily Lunch Buffet to suit every palate with a wide selection of fresh salads, cold cuts, appetizers, soup, meat, shellfish, pasta and pizza bar and dessert. The menu changes every day, always giving guests a new and exciting gastronomic experience. Daily Lunch Buffet is priced at P289+, Mondays to Fridays. Antonelli's Cafe Ristorante is located at 177 Yakal St., Sarmiento Condominium, Makati City. Call 844-0637/0639 or 816-6853.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL welcomes the Chinese winter season with a gastronomic festival depicting a centuries-old cooking custom. The rare offering is presented until Oct. 31 at Tin Hau, the hotel's premier Chinese restaurant. Selections include Satay Hot Pot with Fresh Seafood (lobster, scallops, clams, fish fillet, beef, squid, chicken, mushroom and vegetables), Baked Lobster with Pine Seeds in Spicy Sauce, Braised Whole Pigeon with Bamboo Shoots and Black Mushrooms, Pork Knuckle in Black Pepper Sauce, Clay Pot Rice with Preserved Meat and Chinese Sausage, Stuffed Bean Curd with Minced Shrimp in Portuguese Sauce, Braised Duck with Chestnuts in Brown Sauce, Stewed Diced Chicken and Salted Fish with Soft Bean Curd and King Prawn. Call 750-8888 local 2422 and 2424.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Inagiku is showcasing a harvest of delectable seafood until Nov. 1. Diners can choose from Taraba or King Crab, which is sought after for its meaty legs; Hanasaki or Spike Crabs, known for their spiked shell; and Zuwai, a popular crab variety not only in Japan but in Korea, Russia and Canada. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888.

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA offers a taste of Cebu until Oct. 31. Guest chefs from Ki-namot sa Escario, a dining landmark in Cebu, share popular and mouthwatering Cebuano dishes like Piniritong Inun-unan (Fried Tuna in Special Seasonings), Ginisal Nga Sikwa (Sauteed Native Zucchini), Pinakurat na Nukos (Fresh Squid Dipped in Hot Steaming Oil and Mixed with Vinegar Onions, Pepper, Tomatoes and other Native Spices) and Dinuldog (Red Squash with Dried Fish Simmered in Coconut Milk), Lechon Manok Bisaya (Roasted Native Chicken) and Tinabal (Salted Fish Sauteed in Oil, Garlic, Onions and Tomatoes). Call 551-5555 local 1531.

RESTORAN BARASOAIN reopens at the G/F Mile Long Theme Center, Amorsolo Street, Makati. The restaurant specializes in authentic Filipino cuisine using home recipes of gourmet chef Conrad Calalang. Specialties include Pinalutong na Isda, Manok sa Dahon Sili, Kare Kare sa Kasoy, Chicken Asado de Carajay and Paksiw na Isda at Bihod sa Ampalaya. Call 844-7070 or 813-6394.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL offers authentic dishes from Italy's most celebrated regions—Tuscany, Rome, Florence, Milan and Bologna until Nov. 31. Special menu offerings include Marinated Eggplant and Goat Cheese Tart with Black Olive Aioli; Panzanella Bread Salad with Fennel, Tomato, Onion, Cucumber and Red Wine Vinegar; Pressed Focaccia Sandwich with Grilled Vegetables and Taleggio Cheese; Rigatoni with Fennel, Sausage and Peppers; Goat Cheese Lasagna with Spicy Sausage and Slow Roasted Tomato, Ossobuco with Tomato Mascarpone Polenta and Rosemary Gremolata; Chicken Saltimboca; and Balsamic Berries with Gelato. Call 811-6888 local 3318.

DUSIT HOTEL'S Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant will celebrate Thailand's most colorful festival, Luoy Krathong on Oct. 31-Nov.1, 6-10 p.m. Dusit's Thai chef Suwattee Teerapath offers a special set menu. Guests may sample Set Menu A, which includes Gung Hom Sabai (deep-fried stuffed prawns) for appetizer, Yum Talay (combination of seafood salad), Tom Kha Gai (chicken and *galangal* shoots in coconut milk) for soup; for main course, Pla Nung Manao (steamed seabass with garlic, lemon and chili), Phad Pak Kana Moo Krob (stir-fried broccoli with crispy pork) and Gaeng Karee Gai (yellow chicken curry); and for dessert, Ruam Mit Chao Wang (water chestnut, young coconut and jackfruit in syrup with coconut milk). Set Menu B includes Por Pia Savoey (Thai spring rolls) for appetizer, Yam Ma Duk Foo (crispy catfish with green mango salad), Tom Yam Gung (Thai hot prawn soup with lime and lemon grass); main dishes include Gai Phad Med Mamuang (chicken sauteed with cashew nuts), Gaeng Kiew Wan Neua (green curry beef with young coconut heart) and Phad Pak Ruam Mit (assorted fried vegetables in oyster sauce). For dessert, there is Ka Nom Tako (sweet water chestnut and coconut cream). The restaurant offers an executive set lunch Japanese style daily. Call 867-3333 local 3351/3353.

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A living book about food

The Party Cookbook
By Myrna D. Segismundo
Anvil Publishing Inc.
2000

By Doreen G. Fernandez

REVIEW

THE BEST-SELLING books today, publishers tell us, are first, cookbooks; and second, exercise books. The cookbooks are no longer, however, just collections of recipes; they contain food lore, anecdotes, social history. They are "about living the food life," and not just about cooking. Myrna Segismundo's "The Party Cookbook" is such a book.

I first met Myrna in her stellar role as designer and chef of the Sign of the Anvil, which she managed for 16 years. It was a fine-dining restaurant exclusively for members of the Equitable PCI Bank and their guests. And yet it was well known beyond those circles because it kept winning prizes at the Chefs on Parade of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Phils. (thrice as Highest Ranking Restaurant; twice for excellence in the Filipino Market Basket category).

Myrna's dishes were always beautifully plated—she did the food styling—and impeccably served.

In a column for the food page of the daily newspaper Today, Myrna wrote recipes and market lists and suggested occasions for serving—all obviously kitchen-tested and viable, and simple enough for cooks of all ability levels to implement and serve.

Most importantly, "The Party Cookbook" is a record of dishes Myrna has researched, adapted, invented and served; a record therefore, a personal document; a chapter of Philippine social and culinary history. This is how she and her team cooked for her clientele; this is how it was in her time—which stretches from yesterday to today to a surely far-reaching future.

This will inform and influence other chefs and restaurants. This has power on the food landscape.

As Myrna herself tells it: "I asked myself whether I ought to have written a food novel instead of a cookbook. Trouble is, I find writing (or is it the sitting still to write) a painful process. This is why I am a cook... One with stories to tell about life with fish, meat, fruits and vegetables, and how they were composed into signature dishes, executed at many parties, then finally documented in recipe form for posterity and for sharing with friends like you."

Whatever level of accomplishment one has attained as a cook, these recipes will speak to one, invite a taste, tickle memories, enable pleasure.

The recipes are divided according to occasions at which they may be featured: birthdays, debuts, graduation and children's parties, weddings, baptisms, *despedidas de soltera*, picnics, formal dinners, Sunday lunches and the like. And, of course, one may mix and match dishes. There are plans of action (e.g. "3 days before, marinate the beef overnight..."). And an index. And fresh bright photographs by Mark Floro.

It is impossible for me to choose favorites, since food pleasures are determined by occasion and mood. But I remember well enjoying Myrna's superb Hainanese Chicken Rice, a recipe shared with her by the former Filipino chef of Singapore's former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Also a salad of *ubod*, *singkamas*, pomelos and *pako*. A very special salmon and scallops *sinigang* with green mango and tomato sauces. A carabao's milk flan with a shot of *lambanog*. *Kinilaw* three ways: shrimps with green mangoes, *tanguingue* with seaweed and calamansi; rolled steak tartare with fried capers.

One grows hungry remembering. The recipes meet every taste, budget and wish. It is truly a living book about food.

Bite by byte

(From page C1)

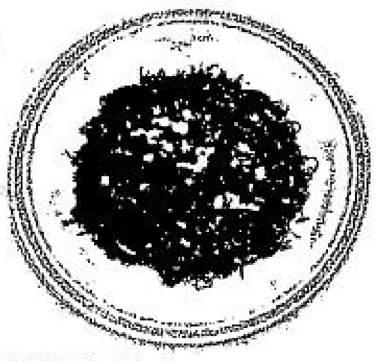
Bangkal, Makati, or sending e-mail to bailonfoods@hotmail.com.

Hamburger Steak. A reader, Chris J. Feld of Antipolo, writes in response to our burger column. "If you asked in Hamburg, where I lived [in the '60s] for a hamburger, you would have gotten laughs and stupid looks... Hamburgers were unknown in Hamburg at that time, and surely some time later." He recalls that a man named Hamburg or coming from Hamburg first sold them in America with big success... "I seriously doubt that they looked like those sold today by American-inspired junk shops in the Philippines which look as if a 10-wheeler [had] run over them... in order to kill the Mad Cow disease."

He gives his recipe: The Real Hamburger Steak is made from half pork, half beef with some toasted or fried white bread cut into cubes, sometimes buttered. Other ingredients: onions and garlic, salt, pepper, some mustard and hard-boiled eggs. Knead everything together with some whipped eggs to get a better consistency. Form all into a loaf and cook in a baking oven. It gives a very tasty meal, sliced like bread.

In other parts of Germany it is called Flascher Hase (false hare). If made into balls a bit smaller than tennis balls, and slightly flattened then fried, it is called Klops or Bouletten. Eat them hot or cold with mustard, tomatoes, or a raw salad, or if you have a sweet tooth, a slice of pineapple.

Jane Po. Musician, writer, community activist and great cook Jane (formerly of the UP) is alive and well and living in San Francisco. Her latest venture, after persuasion by Joey Ayala (director of the Babilonia Winter Foundation, which integrates Culture, Ecology and Bayan), is giving cooking lessons: "Cooking ng ina mo: beyond lumpia and adobo, cast off the shackles of stereotypical cooking." Joey Ayala (joeyayala.com.ph) gets leftovers.

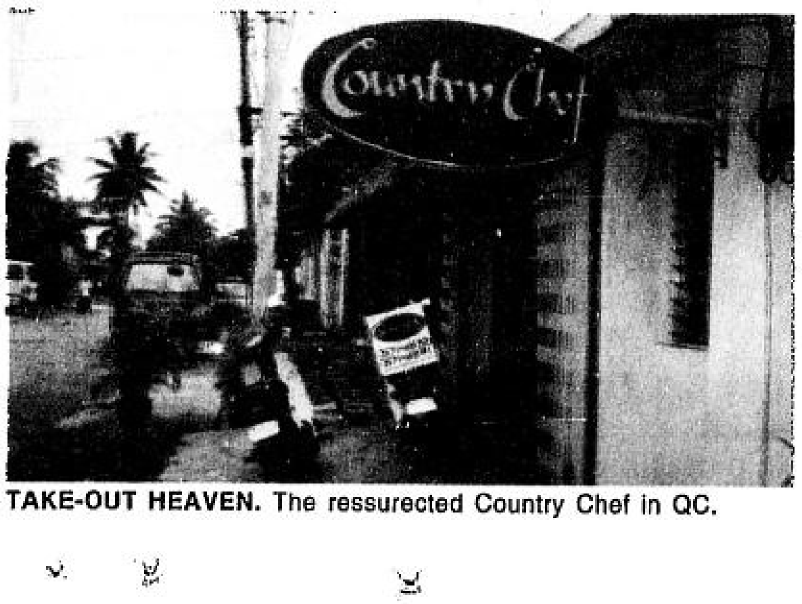

PANCIT habhab

The lessons cost $125 a head for six once-a-week two- to three-hour sessions. Jane, whose e-mail address is marijuana@kusinera.com, exclaims: "Josko, my new life—the culinary dominatrix?" But of course, Jane, you are, by talent and temperament and right of passage.

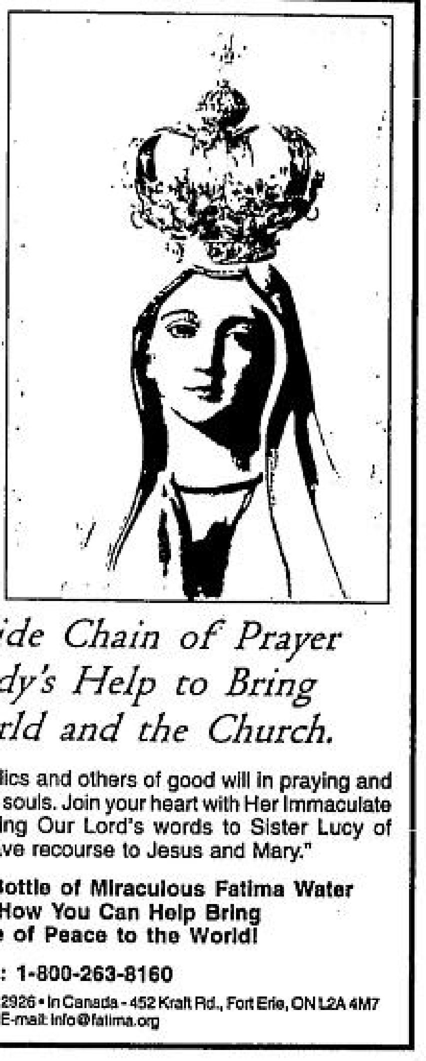
Instant Sugar-Free Dessert. WHAT do you do if you have diabetes, must have only sugar-free desserts if at all, and you are a food writer? Well, I usually taste an inch here and there, of each of my companions' desserts. But if you are lucky enough to have Chef Jessie Sincioco of Le Soufflé, the country's best pastry chef, for a friend, you might get lucky.

"I'll make you a sugar-free dessert," she offered. Right now; just wait a few minutes." Back she came with a round of baked bananas palisaded by toasted, cinnamon-sprinkled strips of her famous Ciabatta bread. It was delicious. She knew I liked bananas, and so she had baked them—with no sugar at all—and shaped them into a little cake, with a fence of Ciabatta toast. That was luck, serendipity and, of course, great friendship.

STUFFED fish with green sauce



TAKE-OUT HEAVEN. The ressurected Country Chef in QC.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From October 26 to 28, 2001 treat yourself and your family to an overnight accommodation for only P1,650 net per room per night.

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HALLOWEEN TREAT ACTIVITIES

October 26 to 28
- *Trick or Treat for Kids upon check-in*
- *Ceramic Painting and Molding*
- *In-House Movies for kids*
- *Dance Revolution*

October 27
- *Scented, Decorative Candle Making Seminar (for only P500 inclusive of registration fee and "do-it-yourself" kit)*

October 28
- *Best Halloween Costume Contest for Kids*
- *Street food stalls galore at the Tipanan Gardens*

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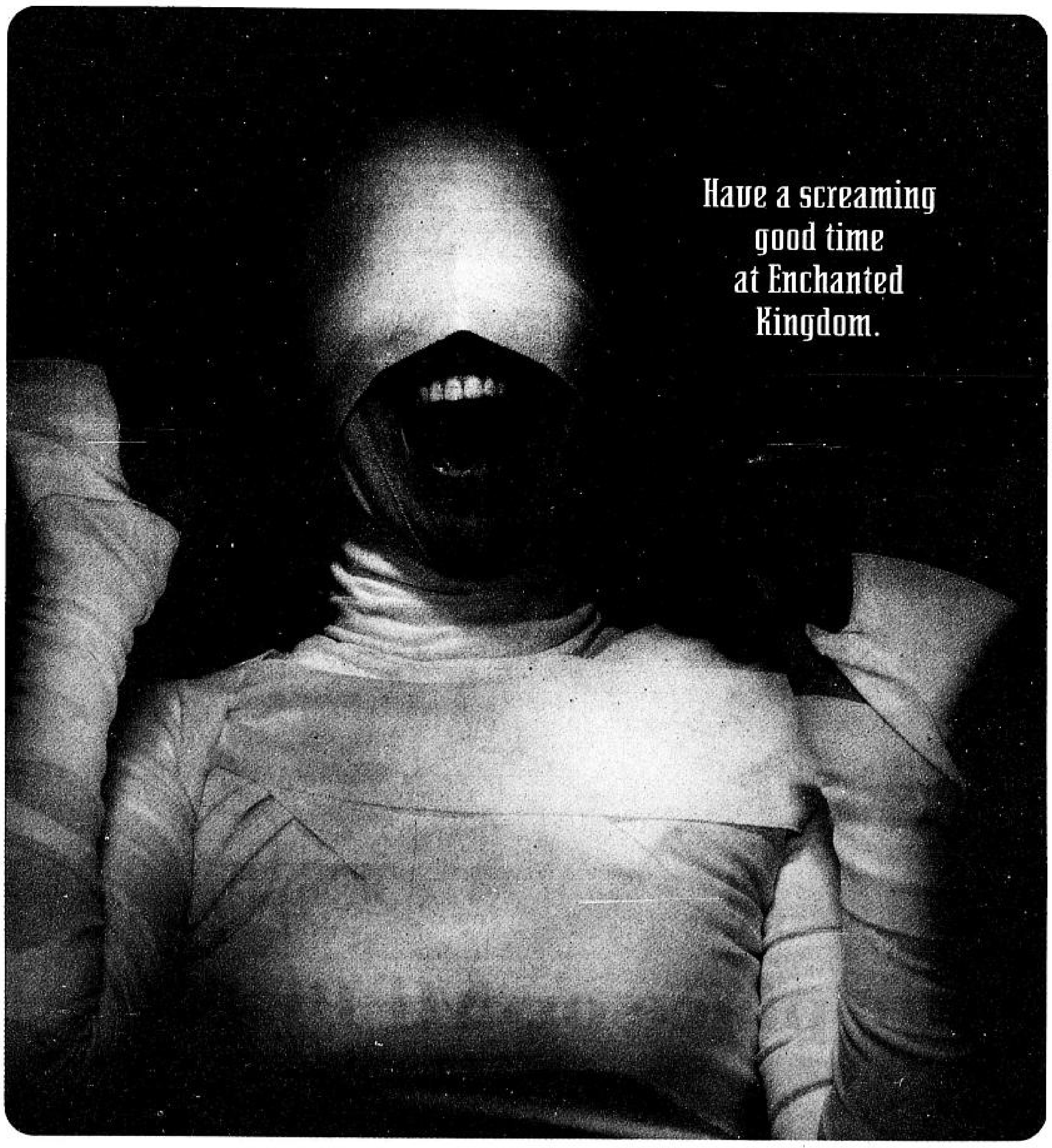

Have a screaming good time at Enchanted Kingdom.

When was the last time you screamed at the top of your lungs, and nobody minded? Now's your chance to release all that pent-up energy, at Enchanted Kingdom's Halloween bash. Get loud and proud as your top bands serve up a dose of heart-pounding music, and your favorite DJs give you a monster mix of tunes to get your feet moving. And for the kids, there's animated fun, with the release of Charlotte's Web video and Pikachu mascot appearance. It's Halloween fun the way only Enchanted Kingdom can give it. So step right up for some monstrous good times.

Enchanted Kingdom

NU 107's Party Monsters On The Loose 2
Oct 27, 4-9 pm, Launch Pad
Listen to NU 107 for a chance to win a free EK pass to watch five hours of rock music from Slapshock, Imago, Battery, The Brownbeat All-Stars, and Sandwich.
RX 93.1's Scream All You Want
Oct 28, 5:30-9:30 pm, Brooklyn
Your favorite DJs and newscasters take centerstage with up-and-coming band 9mm, to give you a wild dance party with face-painting and fortune-telling sessions on the side.

Charlotte's Web video release
Oct 31, 4 pm, Bandstand
The animated musical adaptation of EB White's best-selling novel is now on video, and we're celebrating with a variety show. Join fun games too, and win exciting prizes!
Pikachu mascot appearance
Oct 31, 3:00-3:30 pm and 5:00-5:30 pm, Bandstand
Let the kids get up close and personal with one of the ever-popular Pokemon characters. He'll jive, high-five, and even pose with the kids for pictures.

It's Back! The Lucky Visitor of the Day
Visit on any of the above dates, and you can win five VIP passes so you and your friends don't have to line up, plus free P500 in Wizard Money, and a souvenir photo with the Wizard!

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN SCHEDULE
Oct 31 to Nov 4, 10 am to 10 pm
Grand fireworks display at 9 pm

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Makati Sales Office: Amtrust Leisure Corporation G/F, Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • **Park Address:** Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • **Tel. No.:** 830-2111 to 17, 843-6073 to 78 . **Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets:** National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.

MEI MEI Chef wannabes at Shakey's

I CAN almost taste the pizza.

Look, Ma, I'm making pizza

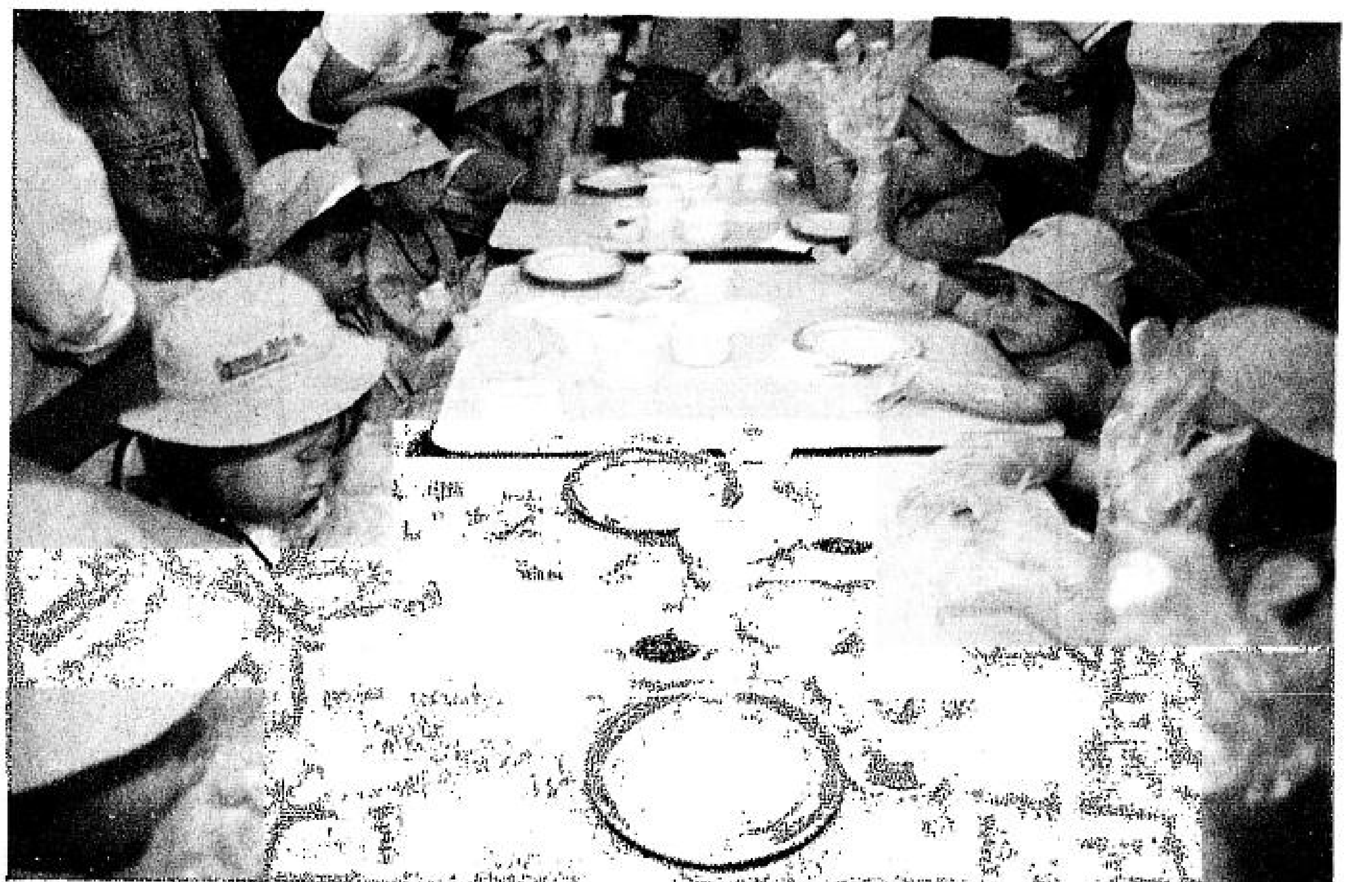
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

WITH UNBOUNDED energy, Second Mom students marched off to Shakey's Pizza Parlor at Robinsons Galleria recently to take part in a crash course in culinary arts, particularly pizza-making. Field trips are customary events at Second Mom, which firmly believes that direct and concrete experiences are essential for meaningful learning. The field trip to Shakey's is in culmination of the children's lesson on community helpers. They had earlier gone to the radio station and met Mr. DJ, to the police station and saw a policeman, and to the fire station and experienced putting out fire with the help of a fireman.

On Shakey's Day, they were scheduled to meet the cooks and service crew of the pizza parlor. But they were in for a bigger treat as they all donned their plastic gloves and took on the task of preparing pizzas themselves. The Shakey's crew had prepared the ingredients beforehand. Each child had one solo pizza and, though barely taller than the tables, they reached out for mozzarella cheese, ham and pineapple slices. Yup, they were crafting Hawaiian Delight pizzas!

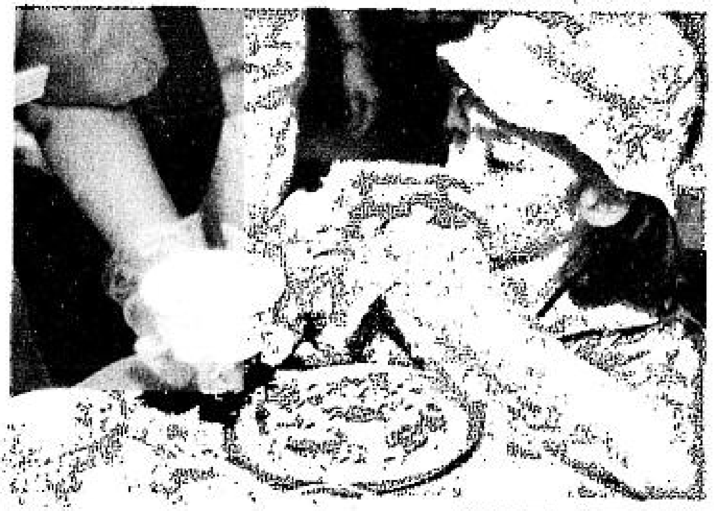
After the kids got their kick out of placing the toppings on the dough, the Shakey's service crew carted away the pizzas to the humongous ovens to be baked. Meanwhile, the young tykes enjoyed themselves with the variety of games prepared by Shakey's for them. After the exhausting round of games, they all sat down and prepared to gobble up their very own creations. The pizzas were served and everybody partook of the scrumptious meal. To top the thrilling morning, each child even got a loot bag and a Certificate of Participation for attending Shakey's Pizza Preparation Course. Needless to say, each child was enthralled and enriched by the experience.

VOILA! Mini delight.



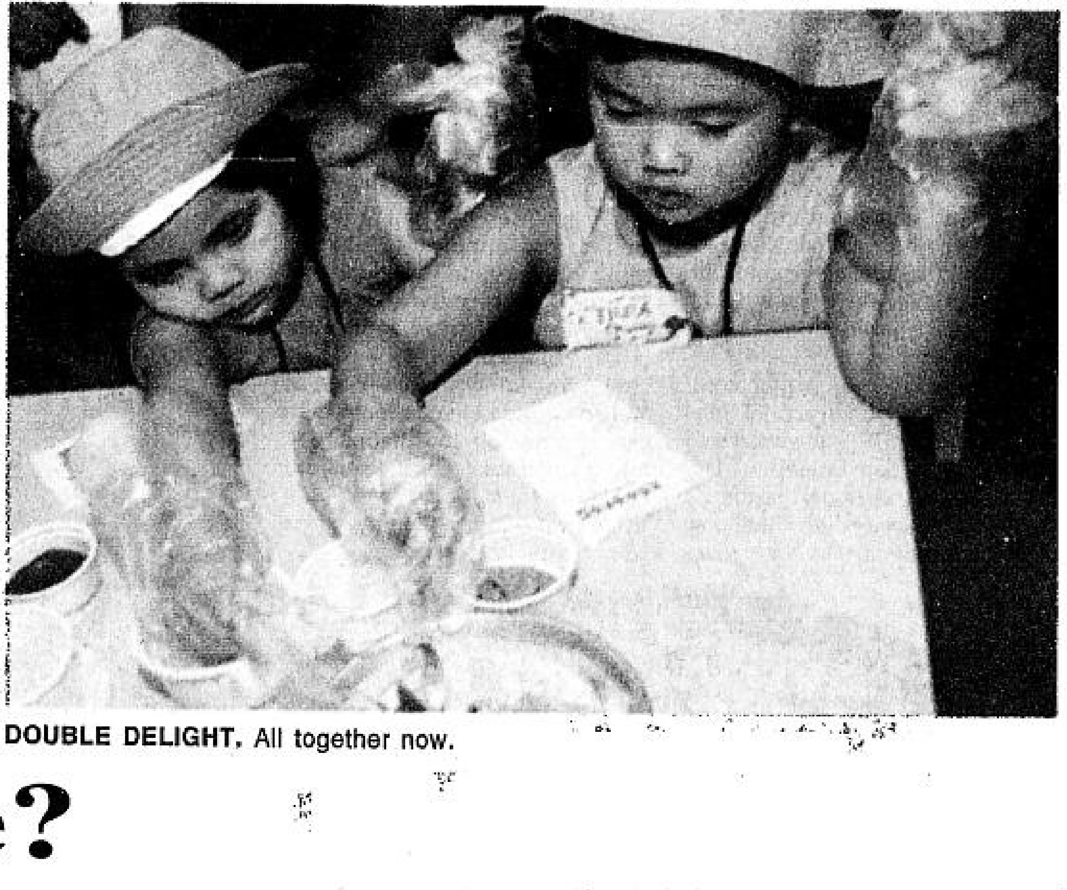
LORD, help me make the perfect pizza.

SOLO MIA. This is the way we build a pizza.



CHEESE, ham or pineapple?

ALOHA. Watch me build a Hawaiian delight.



DOUBLE DELIGHT. All together now.

Your piace or Mi Piace?

(From page C8)

tastes. Each can be felt separately, if one pays attention.

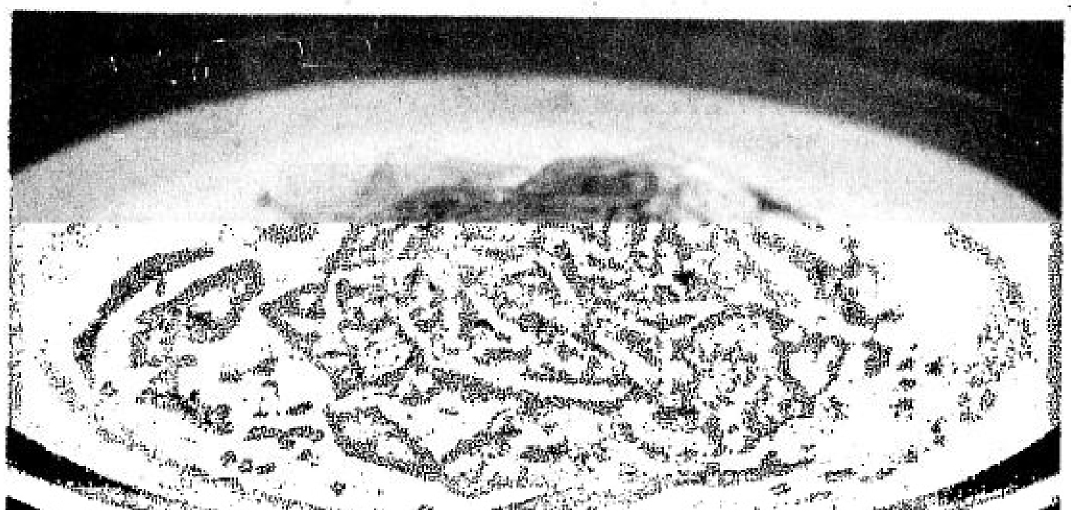
While pasta and fish may be Italy's staple foods, its greater glories are its vegetables and fruits. Its genius for giving food an extra dimension of flavor has made it a country whose repertoire of herbs is large and of high quality.

As can be seen at Mi Piace, no Italian kitchen is without fresh or dried bunches of parsley, sweet basil, wild marjoram, thyme, rosemary, sage, tarragon, bay leaves, oregano, mint, myrtle and borage. Fennel seeds and juniper berries are also often used.

Like any Italian, Chef Genco's approach to cooking is direct and straightforward. Seduced by the serene understatement of Mi Piace at The Manila Peninsula and Chef Genco's creations, one suddenly feels that Italy is close indeed.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

QUATRO Staggioni Pizza with tomatoes, mozzarella, mushrooms, artichokes, olives and smoked ham



PASTA GALORE. Ravioli D'Aragosta con Salsa All 'Anice, Tortellacci Martina and Linguine Alla Genovese

Digging for bones

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

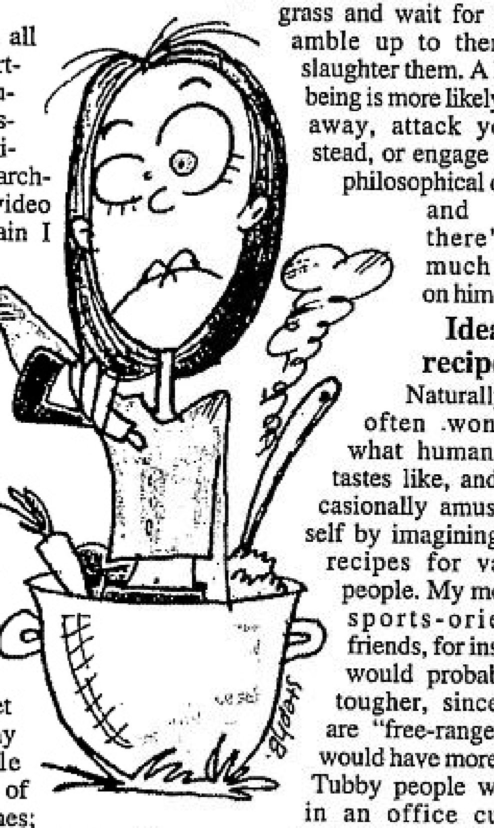
THE FLAT which I live in now is the fourth home I've had in my life. My childhood home was a modest house in a suburban neighborhood, where I could leave the gate open and play with spring-driven matchbox cars in the street, or climb onto the roof and invent fantasy lands full of mythical creatures, where I ruled as king.

After college, I acquired a semblance of independence by moving into a studio that overlooked a rubbish dump, and was barely large enough to contain a single gas ring.

After a brief hiatus at my parents' new flat, where I squatted for a few months while waiting for the building to be completed, I soon held court at a two-bedroom apartment (it was advertised as a three-bedroom apartment, but could only have been inhabited that way by those who sleep hanging upside down from the ceiling); one of its main attractions was that it had an excellent view of the Ateneo soccer field, where athletic girls in shorts played practice games every afternoon.

When I finally made the decision to leave academe for good, I moved into my present lodgings in Makati, where the view is less erotic; but the building, unlike the previous, has provisions for cable television.

The strange thing is that whenever I move, I make a decision to simplify my life, and try and take only the things that are "absolutely essential." This, in theory, means dividing all my worldly possessions into two categories (viz., essential and nonessential); but I always end up with a third category, that of things that just might be important, or that I can't bring myself to ruthlessly throw into the trash. These I pack into boxes labeled "miscellaneous items," and then stack in a corner.



For some reason, all but one of these apartments (the rented studio) are still in our possession, and I periodically find myself searching for a book or video that I'm quite certain I own, but which is not among the books in my library. I've also been trying to justify the purchase of an Italian leather-bound photo album with marbled paper by compiling the Important Photographs of My Life, which, of course, is nowhere in my present piles of photographs. So once in a while I tie a wet handkerchief over my nose and scramble through the detritus of one of my past homes; the emotions are always a mixture of nostalgic regret, thank-God-I-don't-live-here-anymore, and then increasing panic at the impending and inevitable asthma attack.

Revisiting each of these homes is not so much like going to a museum as hacking through an archeological site. Imagine, if you will, Indiana Jones or Lara Croft, but with a screenplay by Sigmund Freud (soundtrack by Tori Amos). As I visited these sites, I began to find a pattern; or rather, patterns: çertain themes that have never left me through the years. Writing and cooking, for example, were activities I have been doing as far back as I can remember, so when interviewers ask me the inane question: "So when did you begin writing?," I ask them to be more specific: "Block letters, or script?" One of my earliest stories, though, was about a man who steadily went mad and began to inhabit a world of his own. I remember applying to major in psychology in college, and was only dissuaded by the guidance counselor, who said, very matter of factly: "I know why you want to take this, but you can't cure yourself, you know."

Seductive madness

In my university psychology class, though, I did a paper on abnormal psychology; and among my papers for my philosophy subdegree was a reading of Foucault's "Madness and Civilization." Almost all of my short stories contain a character who is, or becomes, mad. Among my favorite films are those by Terry Gilliam, in which reality and sanity are repeatedly questioned. Lewis Carroll and Monty Python are not nonsense works but tentative explorations of other variations on logic and language. And then finally, my innate disdain and snobbery, love of fine cuisine, and sympathy for controlled lunacy found its ideal in the character of Hannibal Lecter, who is one of my most cherished antiheroes.

But the success of both of the films in which he appears would make it seem that I am not the only person who finds his madness seductive. Cannibalism is an undercurrent that runs through our civilized society, the dirty thought that none of us wish to acknowledge. It surfaces in plays like "Sweeney Todd," or films like "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover"; some have argued that films in which people are eaten (shark films, or the more recent dinosaur films) are outlets of a deeply buried desire to feed on one's fellow man. Sexual terminology is, of course, gustatory in nature, from descriptions of women ("She'll eat him alive") to the immense sexual gratification that some men get from women swallowing their cum.

The anthropological explanation for the taboo against cannibalism is usually the somewhat practical one, which is that the survival of a society is more difficult if you're perpetually looking over your shoulder to ensure you aren't going to be taken home for someone's dinner because the best cuts at the butcher's were gone that morning. Evolutionarists also argue that man is not an ideal animal to hunt and eat, because the chances of being caught and killed instead are high, and the protein value of an average human is low. This makes sense; thus, we eat animals like cows and sheep, which simply stand there, eat grass and wait for you to amble up to them and slaughter them. A human being is more likely to run away, attack you instead, or engage you in philosophical debate; and then there's not much meat on him.

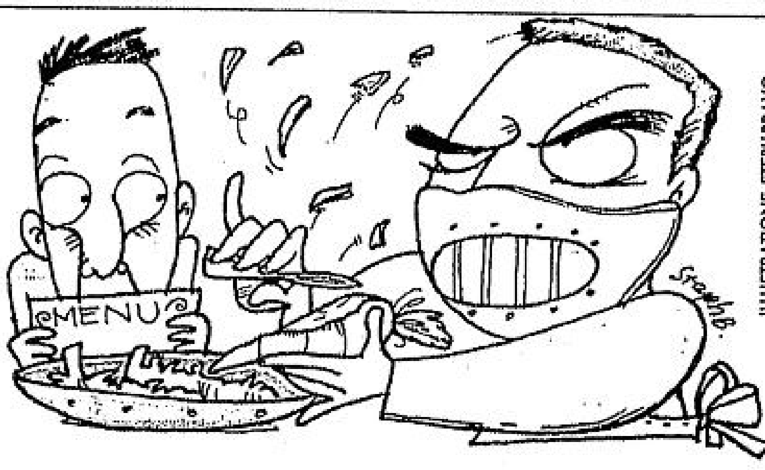
Ideal recipes

Naturally, I've often wondered what human flesh tastes like, and I occasionally amuse myself by imagining ideal recipes for various people. My more fit, sports-oriented friends, for instance, would probably be tougher, since they are "free-range," but would have more meat. Tubby people who sit in an office cubicle would be good for roasting, with a nice layer of fat; while people like me who aren't round, but don't exercise much, would be the equivalent of Peking duck, just a layer of fat and then bone (but I do take care of my skin, which should be nice and crisp). Anorexic models would be the least satisfying of all, like a poorly fed quail or pigeon, and there is a high possibility of there being various narcotic toxins in their body. Of course, there are other options: the meat could be minced and then stuffed into pouches, or mixed with egg whites and poached as quenelles. Certain people's personalities, also, call for particular modes of cuisine: there are people who just cry out for soy sauce and a quick stir-fry, while others may be more suitable for a subtle sauce with white wine, shallots and cream, and a hint of paprika.

Is this making you uncomfortable? Of course it is. Even as every Sunday, at mass, we eat the transubstantiated body of the God we worship, it is shudderingly forbidden to eat other men, as dictated by the rules of our society. The rules of our society are not laws, or conventions, or common sense, or good manners; the network that holds all this in place is what we deem reality. And so when we meet our neighbor as we shuffle out of church into the Sunday morning sunshine, we shake his hand and ask about his family instead of lunging at him and gnawing off bits from his shoulder. The will-to-power is sublimated into various other ways of eating people: there are women who deliberately hurt men emotionally; there are men who get a kick out of stealing other people's girlfriends; and in business, there is nothing quite so satisfying as stamping one's competitor into the ground.

The questioning of reality is not so much incipient madness but a good sign that one's mind is alive

DIGGING/ p.C7



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

'My innate disdain and snobbery, love of fine cuisine and sympathy for controlled lunacy found its ideal in the character of Hannibal Lecter, who is one of my most cherished antiheroes'

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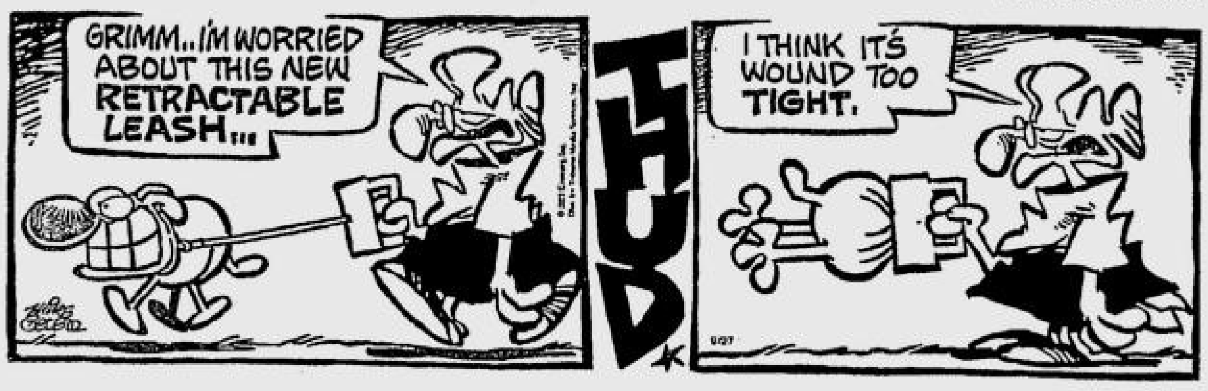
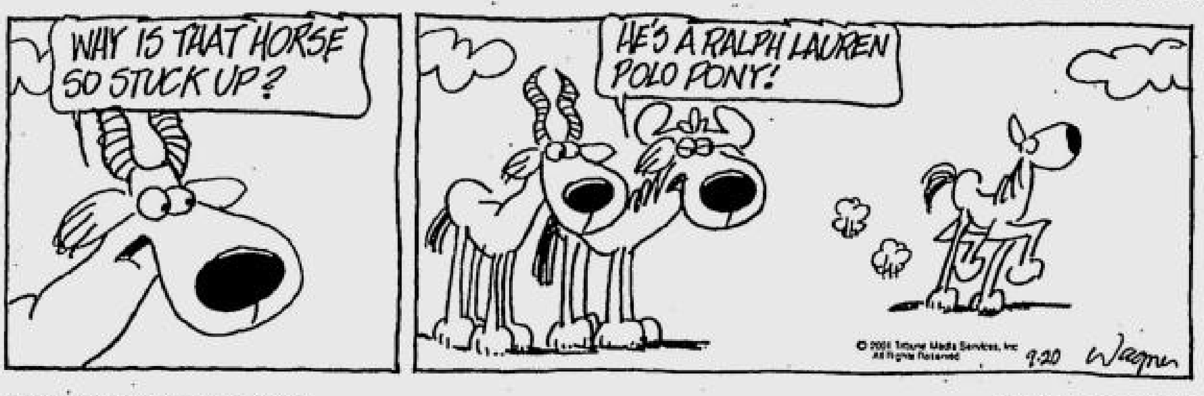
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM.. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS NEW RETRACTABLE LEASH...
THUD
I THINK IT'S WOUND TOO TIGHT.

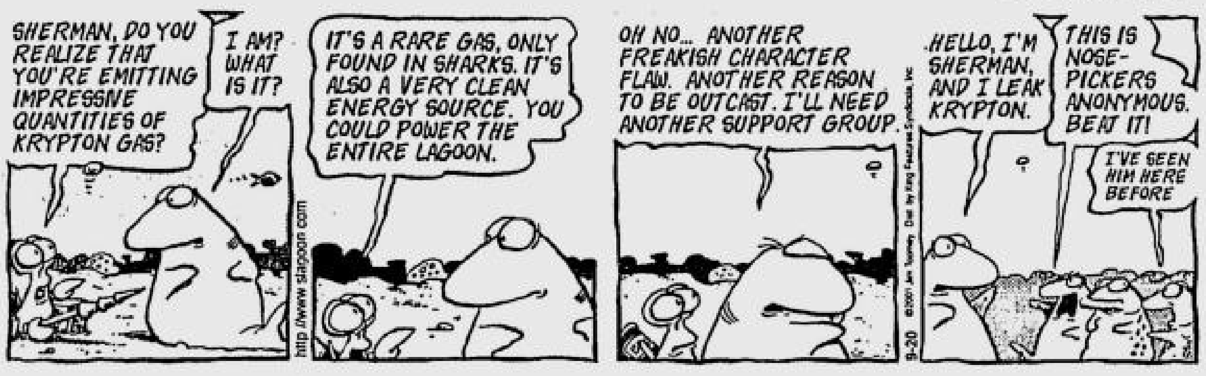
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHY IS THAT HORSE SO STUCK UP?
HE'S A RALPH LAUREN POLO PONY!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc All Rights Reserved
9-20
Wagner

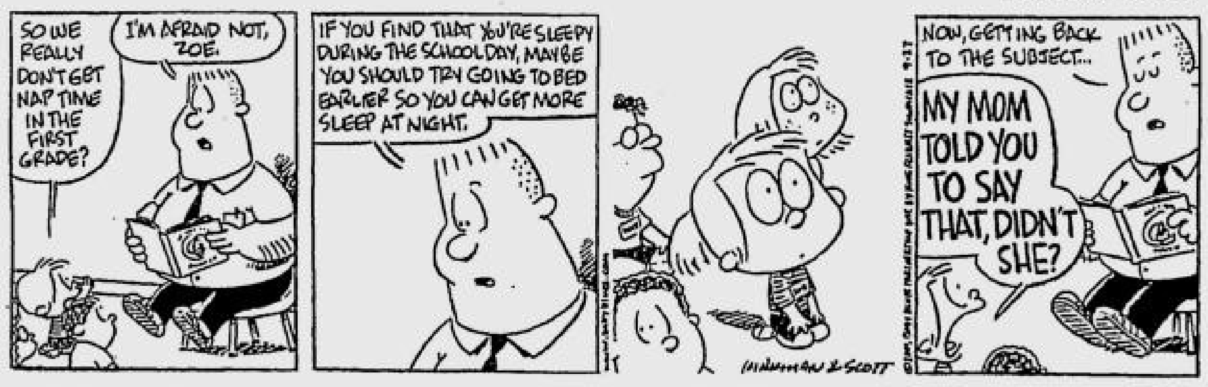
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE EMITTING IMPRESSIVE QUANTITIES OF KRYPTON GAS?
I AM? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A RARE GAS, ONLY FOUND IN SHARKS. IT'S ALSO A VERY CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE. YOU COULD POWER THE ENTIRE LAGOON.
OH NO... ANOTHER FREAKISH CHARACTER FLAW. ANOTHER REASON TO BE OUTCAST. I'LL NEED ANOTHER SUPPORT GROUP.
HELLO, I'M SHERMAN, AND I LEAK KRYPTON.
THIS IS NOSE-PICKERS ANONYMOUS. BEAT IT!
I'VE SEEN HIM HERE BEFORE
http://www.slagoon.com
9-20

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO WE REALLY DON'T GET NAP TIME IN THE FIRST GRADE?
I'M AFRAID NOT, ZOE.
IF YOU FIND THAT YOU'RE SLEEPY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY GOING TO BED EARLIER SO YOU CAN GET MORE SLEEP AT NIGHT.
NOW, GETTING BACK TO THE SUBJECT...
MY MOM TOLD YOU TO SAY THAT, DIDN'T SHE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tracy Nelson, Helen Reddy, Anne Tyler, Bobby Knight

Happy Birthday: Your strong will to succeed will lead to wonderful accomplishments. Put your ideas into motion, and everyone will rally around to help you achieve your goals. Don't sit back waiting for someone else to do it. Your numbers: 3, 14, 18, 27, 29, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Major gains can be made through female contacts. You will communicate with ease, and travel will bring excellent results. The more you do for others, the more you'll receive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch your weight. Overindulgence and too many social events lead to too much food and drink. It's time to learn to say no to people who drain you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to be off and running to feel that you're accomplishing something. Just moving about from one place to another will satisfy your anxious temperament.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An older relative may pose a problem. Try to help him or her out, but not at the expense of your own health. You are walking on shaky ground right now, so tread carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make or break your relationship today. You won't be surprised to find yourself on your own again; you never did like restrictive relationships. Your attitude puts you in the driver's seat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be attracted to a co-worker, but the feelings aren't mutual. Pursuing your current course of action is a bad judgment call. Be an observer today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems with someone you care about may escalate. Expend your energy wisely in a satisfying sports activity. If you keep busy, you'll do fine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. Your financial situation has been exhausting, and it's time to make some serious changes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let a family member get away with unfair comments that hurt your feelings. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your easygoing nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will need to extend a helping hand to an older relative. Your assistance will be appreciated and rewarded. You can accomplish a lot by putting in some overtime.

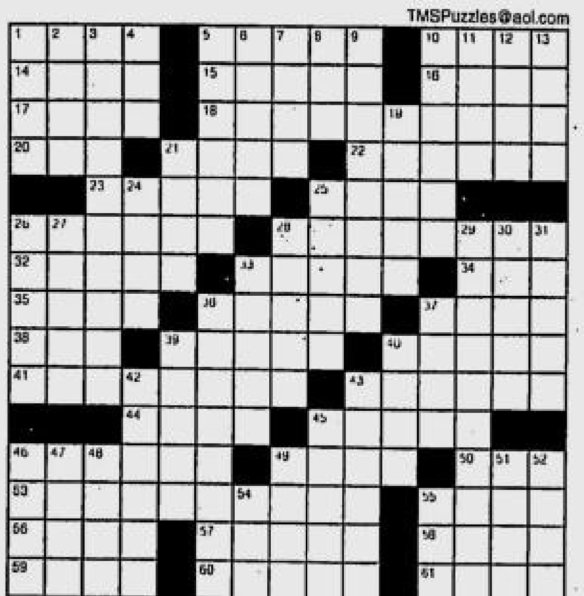
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you love may disappoint you. Your emotions will fluctuate, but don't overspend on your home. Sudden changes will disrupt your routine, so sit back and observe.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll find it difficult to handle the procedures and red tape that officials demand you follow to take care of personal matters. Leave these affairs until a later date if at all possible.

Birthday Baby: You'll be a tough competitor throughout your life. Your raw energy will help push you to the top. You are insightful, understanding and compassionate.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

9/10/01

ACROSS
1 Went off
5 Expands
10 Guitar adjuncts, briefly
14 Garfield's buddy
15 Clear thinking
16 Part of a bow
17 Lahr or Lance
18 Heston movie
20 Opposite of WSW
21 Fabricated
22 Made insensitive
23 Old wagons
25 First murderer
26 Biases
28 Wedding ceremony
32 "48 Hrs." star
33 Groucho's brother
34 Debt letters
35 Signs on the dotted line
36 Stop for a camel
37 Stumble
38 Barely passing grade
39 Connecting rooms
40 Knowing
41 Off course
43 Wanderer
44 Solidifies
45 On edge
46 Flowering shrub
49 Fork prong
50 Skelton or Buttons
53 Costner movie
55 Stack
56 Bypass
57 Eat away at
58 Pinnacle
59 Track circuits
60 Talk out of
61 Stinging insect

DOWN
1 Ear part
2 Adam's garden
3 Norris movie
4 Hanoi holiday
5 Collects bit by bit
6 Highways and byways
7 Fairy-tale beast
8 Comic commentator
9 Dutch gin
10 Graduates
11 Land of Lot's descendants
12 Abrupt blow
13 Risked a ticket
19 Ecuador's capital
21 Small parasite
24 Pismires
25 Radioactivity unit
26 Maliciously derogatory
27 Solitary one
28 Yucky
29 Gibson movie
30 French river
31 Outstanding
33 Greats
36 Prohibited
37 "__ the night before..."
39 Look of contempt
40 First-rate
42 Lace tips
43 Produce a graphic image
45 Spanish diacritical mark
46 Truant GI
47 Hannibal's Waterloo?
48 Leaning precariously
49 Jogging pace
51 "Desire Under the __"
52 Profound
54 Mineral in the raw
55 Manhandle

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	U	P	P	O	R	T	■	A	S	P	H	A	L	T
C	R	E	E	P	E	R	■	S	Q	U	A	L	O	R
A	S	A	R	U	L	E	■	C	U	R	S	O	R	Y
T	A	L	K	S	I	N	W	H	I	S	P	E	R	S
■	■	■	■	E	N	D	O	■	R	U	S	S	E	T
A	G	A	S	S	I	■	E	S	M	E	■	■	■	■
B	A	B	E	■	N	Y	S	E	■	R	A	B	B	I
E	M	B	A	R	G	O	■	C	A	S	P	I	A	N
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■	■	■	■	S	A	I	L	■	B	A	S	K	E	T
C	R	E	D	O	S	■	A	G	E	D	■	■	■	■
L	O	W	E	R	S	O	N	E	S	V	O	I	C	E
O	M	I	T	T	E	D	■	S	T	E	N	T	O	R
N	A	N	E	T	T	E	■	S	O	R	T	E	R	S
E	N	G	R	O	S	S	■	O	S	B	O	R	N	E

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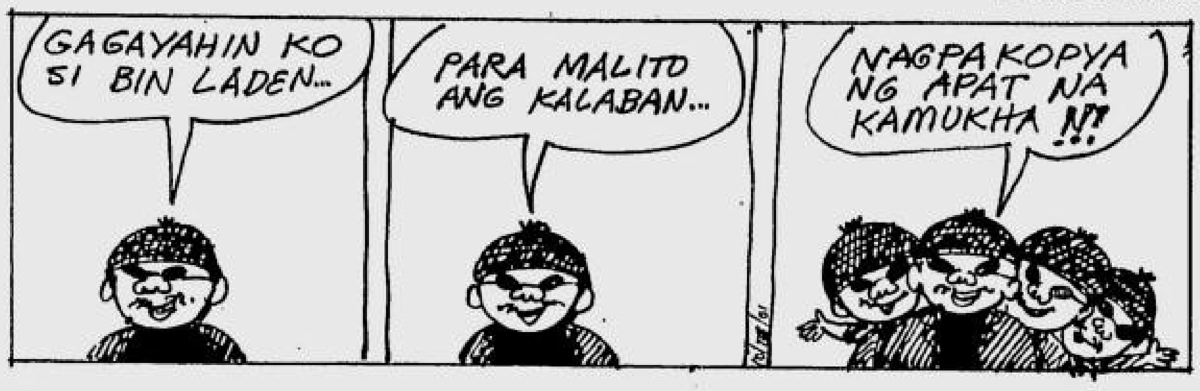
9/10/01

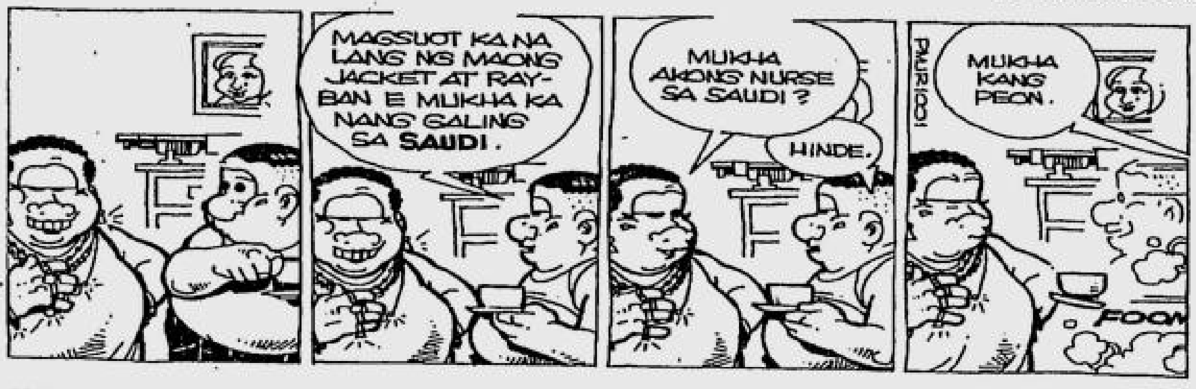
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GAGAYAHIN KO SI BIN LADEN...
PARA MALITO ANG KALABAN...
NAGPAKOPYA NG APAT NA KAMUKHA !!

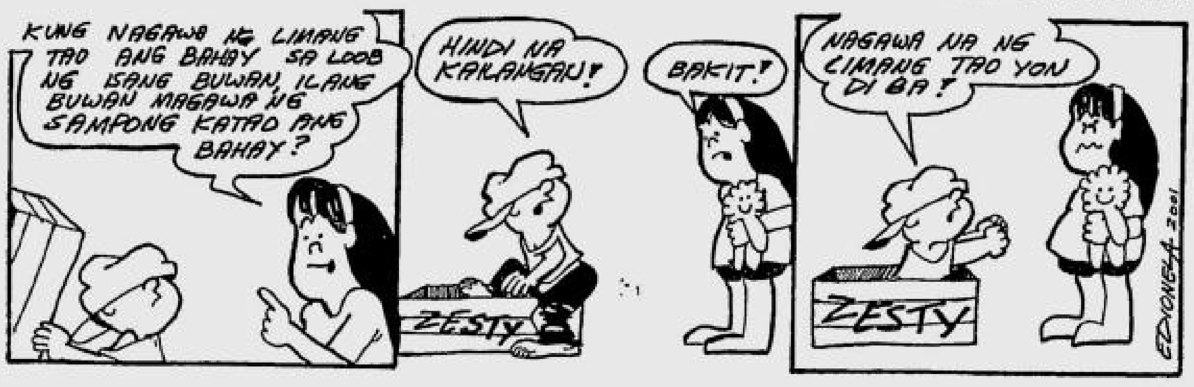
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGSUOT KA NA LANG NG MAONG JACKET AT RAY-BAN E MUKHA KA NANG GALING SA SAUDI.
MUKHA AKONG NURSE SA SAUDI?
HINDE.
MUKHA KANG PEON.
FOOM

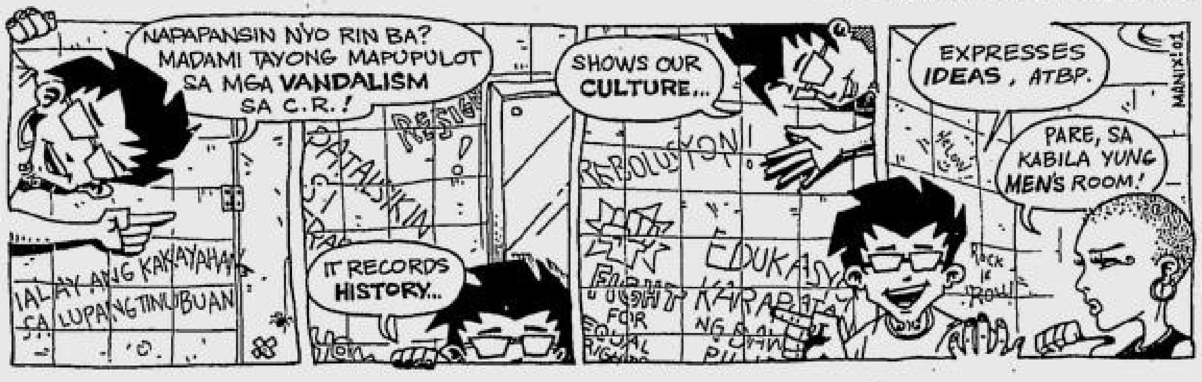
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG NAGAWA NG LIMANG TAO ANG BAHAY SA LOOB NG ISANG BUWAN, ILANG BUWAN MAGAWA NG SAMPONG KATAO ANG BAHAY?
HINDI NA KAILANGAN!
BAKIT!
NAGAWA NA NG LIMANG TAO YON DI BA!
ZESTY
ZESTY
EDIONELA 2001

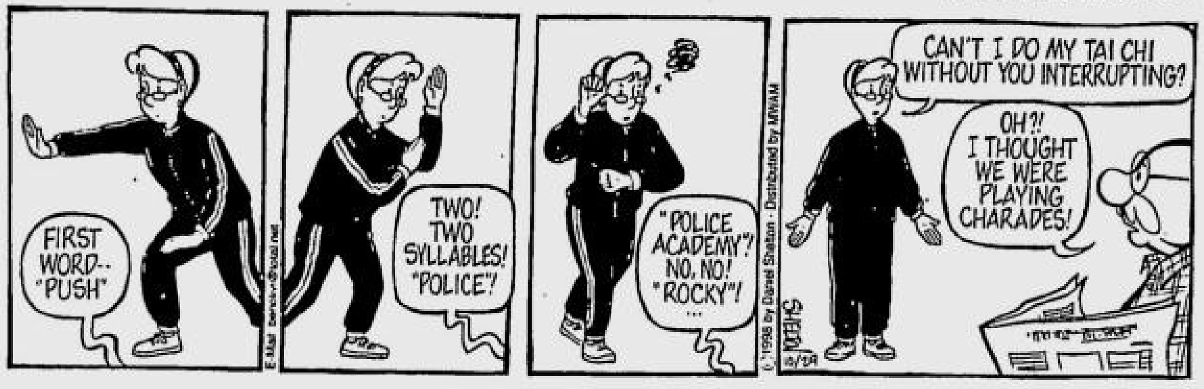
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NAPAPANSIN NYO RIN BA? MADAMI TAYONG MAPUPULOT SA MGA VANDALISM SA C.R.!
IALAY ANG KAKAYAHAN SA LUPANG TINUBUAN
IT RECORDS HISTORY...
RESIGN
SHOWS OUR CULTURE...
REBOLUSYON!
EDUKASYON
FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS
KARAPATAN
EXPRESSES IDEAS, ATBP.
PARE, SA KABILA YUNG MEN'S ROOM!
ROCK IS ROLL
MANIX!01

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


FIRST WORD-- "PUSH"
TWO! TWO SYLLABLES! "POLICE"?
"POLICE ACADEMY"? NO, NO! "ROCKY"! ...
CAN'T I DO MY TAI CHI WITHOUT YOU INTERRUPTING?
OH?! I THOUGHT WE WERE PLAYING CHARADES!
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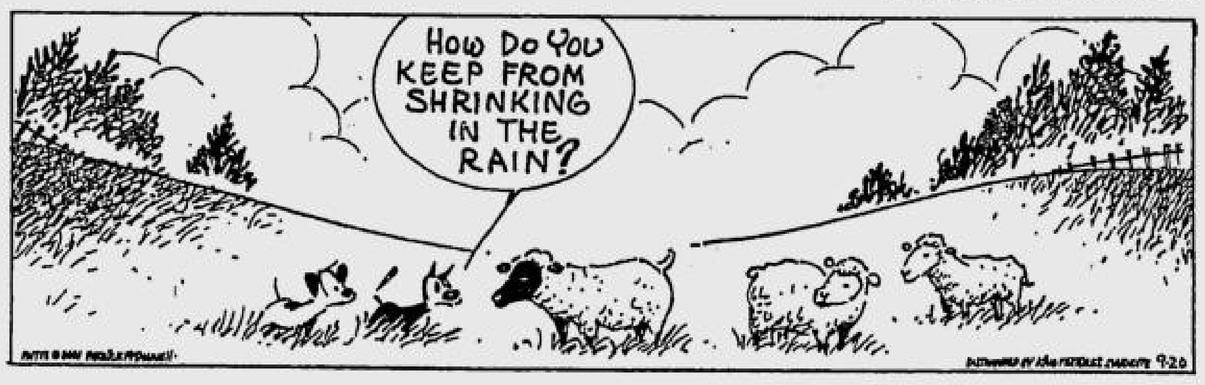
SHELTON

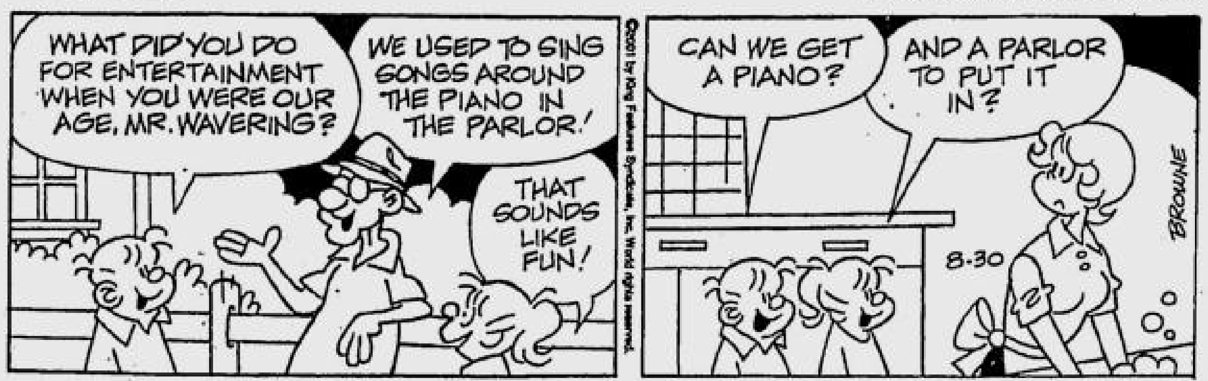
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


How Do You KEEP FROM SHRINKING IN THE RAIN?
9-20

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT DID YOU DO FOR ENTERTAINMENT WHEN YOU WERE OUR AGE, MR. WAVERING?
WE USED TO SING SONGS AROUND THE PIANO IN THE PARLOR!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
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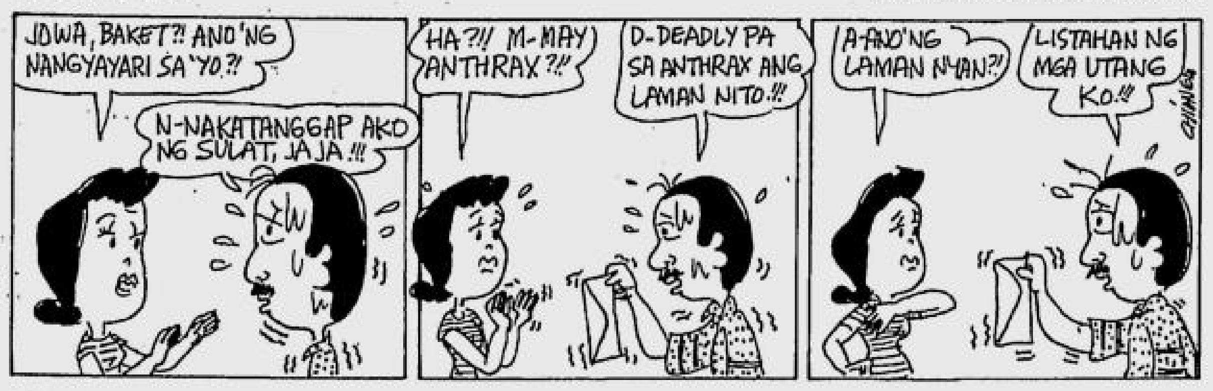
CAN WE GET A PIANO?
AND A PARLOR TO PUT IT IN?
8-30
BROWNE

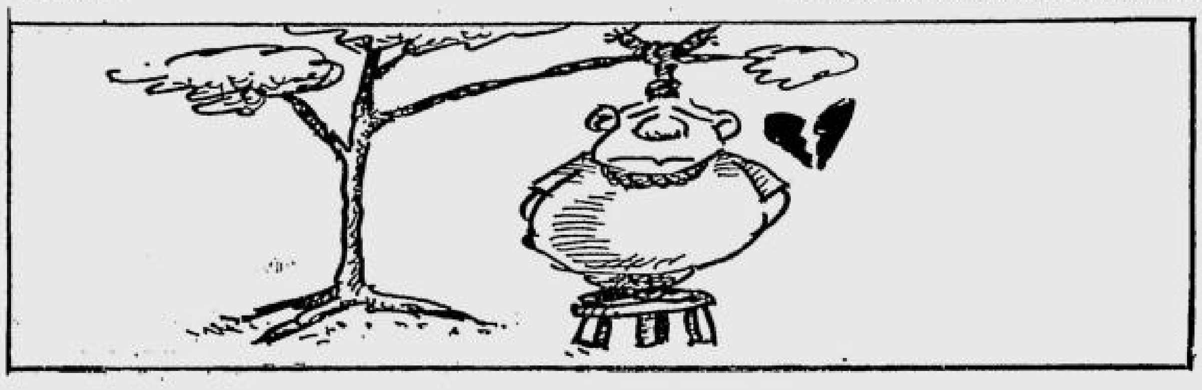
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BAKET?! ANO'NG NANGYAYARI SA'YO?!
N-NAKATANGGAP AKO NG SULAT, JAJA!!!
HA?!! M-MAY ANTHRAX?!!
D-DEADLY PA SA ANTHRAX ANG LAMAN NITO!!!
A-ANO'NG LAMAN N'YAN?!
LISTAHAN NG MGA UTANG KO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



French cuisine and patisserie demos slated for November

LE Cordon Bleu of Paris, the world's premier institution for professional training in the culinary arts, with International Education Specialists of Manila, announced that it is bringing to the Philippines in November the French *art de vivre* through a series of activities designed to promote gastronomic excellence.

Billed as the year's most exciting culinary event, the affair will be highlighted by a series of simultaneous cuisine and patisserie demonstrations to be conducted by Le Cordon Bleu Paris on Nov. 7, 8 and 9, at the Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The morning sessions (8:30 a.m.-12 nn) on Nov. 7 and 8 are for hotel and restaurant management and culinary arts students, while the afternoon (1:30-5 p.m.) schedules on the same dates will have hotel industry executives and professionals as participants. The closing demonstration on Nov. 9 (8:30 a.m.-12 nn) will be open to the public.

Two master chefs from Le Cordon Bleu Paris—John Power and Neil Paton—will be flown in from Paris to conduct the cuisine and patisserie demonstrations that will feature their preparation and demonstration of main dishes, desserts and pastries supported with detailed explanations as the recipes unfold.

Each of the demonstration sessions lasting 3½ hours will culminate with the tasting of the food—an important aspect designed to develop the participants' palate and their appreciation of dishes and accompanying wines.

Power and Paton, who are acknowledged for their high level of culinary expertise, bring to the Philippines their unique styles and extensive international experience in the world's top hotels as they create gastronomic masterpieces utilizing local products.

CHEF John Power

CHEF Neil Paton

Their skills and dedication are complemented by their talent for sharing their knowledge on sophisticated culinary techniques and the latest trends in gastronomy for individuals with interest in the culinary arts.

Paton will introduce the basics of classic French cuisine, while Power will introduce students to the techniques of classic French pastry.

Limited seats are available during the demonstration sessions, in which participants will be required to come in their kitchen uniforms and prepared to participate in the demonstrations. The participation fee is kept to a minimum, inclusive of the cost of the certificate of attendance.

Call Inter-Ed at 819-1001/1002, or visit its office at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

High-fiber bread for health

WHEAT bread is highly nutritious food, offering a good supply of protein, Vitamin B complex and minerals, iron, magnesium and manganese. What makes wheat even more astounding is that it is considered a health food apart from its high nutrition value. Wheat has also been scientifically proven to have beneficial effect on people who are experiencing heart illness and who have precancerous polyps of the colon.

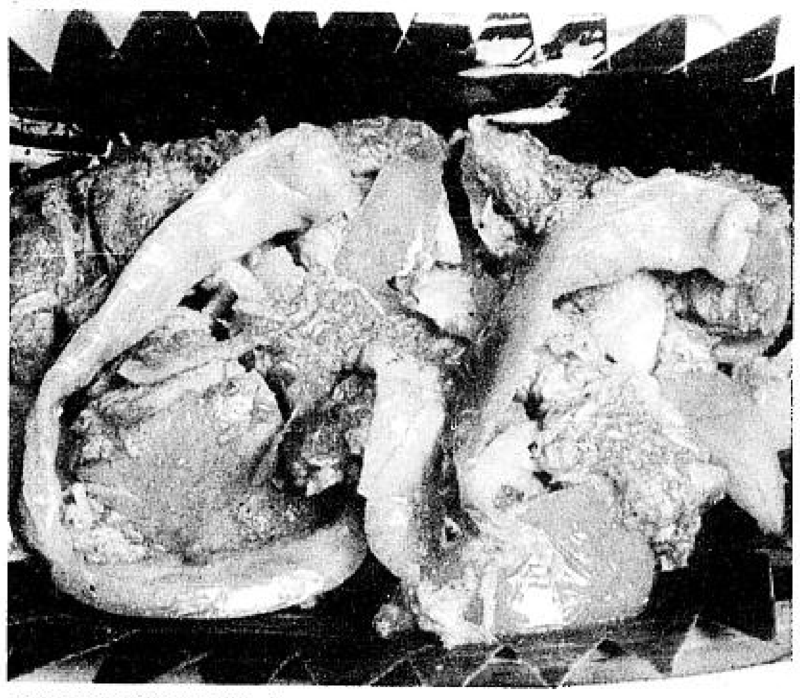
Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread has all the goodness of natural whole meal wheat flour. It is a favorite of health buffs and health-conscious individuals because it is high in fiber and yet soft and delicious. Moreover it is fortified with vitamins (Vitamin B1, B2, B3, C, calcium and iron) to meet the demands of one's active lifestyle.

Besides its great natural taste textured with real wheat grains, weight-watchers turn to Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread to help them keep unwanted fat calories away. Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread is different from the rest because it's "100 percent good for health."

Dieters, athletes, bodybuilders and gymgoers swear it's an ideal way to do carbo-loading. Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread is likewise popular with adults who want to increase their fiber intake to help them digest food better and more efficiently.

Combining taste and nutritional value of dietary fiber, Gardenia bakes healthy High Fiber Wheat Bread for a 100-percent healthy lifestyle. Like all Gardenia products, it comes with a patented G-lock that guarantees its utmost freshness.

Three decades of good food on one long buffet table


BINAGOONGANG *baboy*

FOOD at Kamayan, one of the town's busiest restaurants, is so abundant that wherever you sit inside the dining area is a delicious vantage point. Dining here always feels like a grand celebration. This appetizing exhilaration starts at the buffet tables groaning with locally bred dishes that are too numerous to enumerate.

Kamayan, very recently and in keeping with Filipino hospitality, saw fit to extend the number of dishes on the buffet tables. The restaurant's menu planners have included only the top drawing or favorite entries culled from its extensive repertoire of recipes dating back to day one.

"Paborito Noon: Paborito Ngayon" is the slogan for this move, which serves as an open invitation to diners for an excursion through roughly three decades of good food that only Kamayan can serve.

Kamayan *lechon de leche*, *kare-kare*, *inihaw na pusit*, *kinulob na isda*, *litson manok* are among the all-time favorite dishes on the buffet table huddle and the rest is for you to discover on your next visit. Best of all, the standard per head "no leftover price" for the buffet remains the same at P275, inclusive of tax and no service charge.

Kamayan outlets are located at SM Megamall, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Padre Faura, West Avenue, Edsa and Pasay Road. The restaurants are open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Horoscope addict ka ba?

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STEP 3: ... select FUN AND GAMES to add it to your personalized Talk 'N Text with zed plus menu...

STEP 4: ... and click on HOROSCOPE to get your fortune.

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SMART

Digging for bones

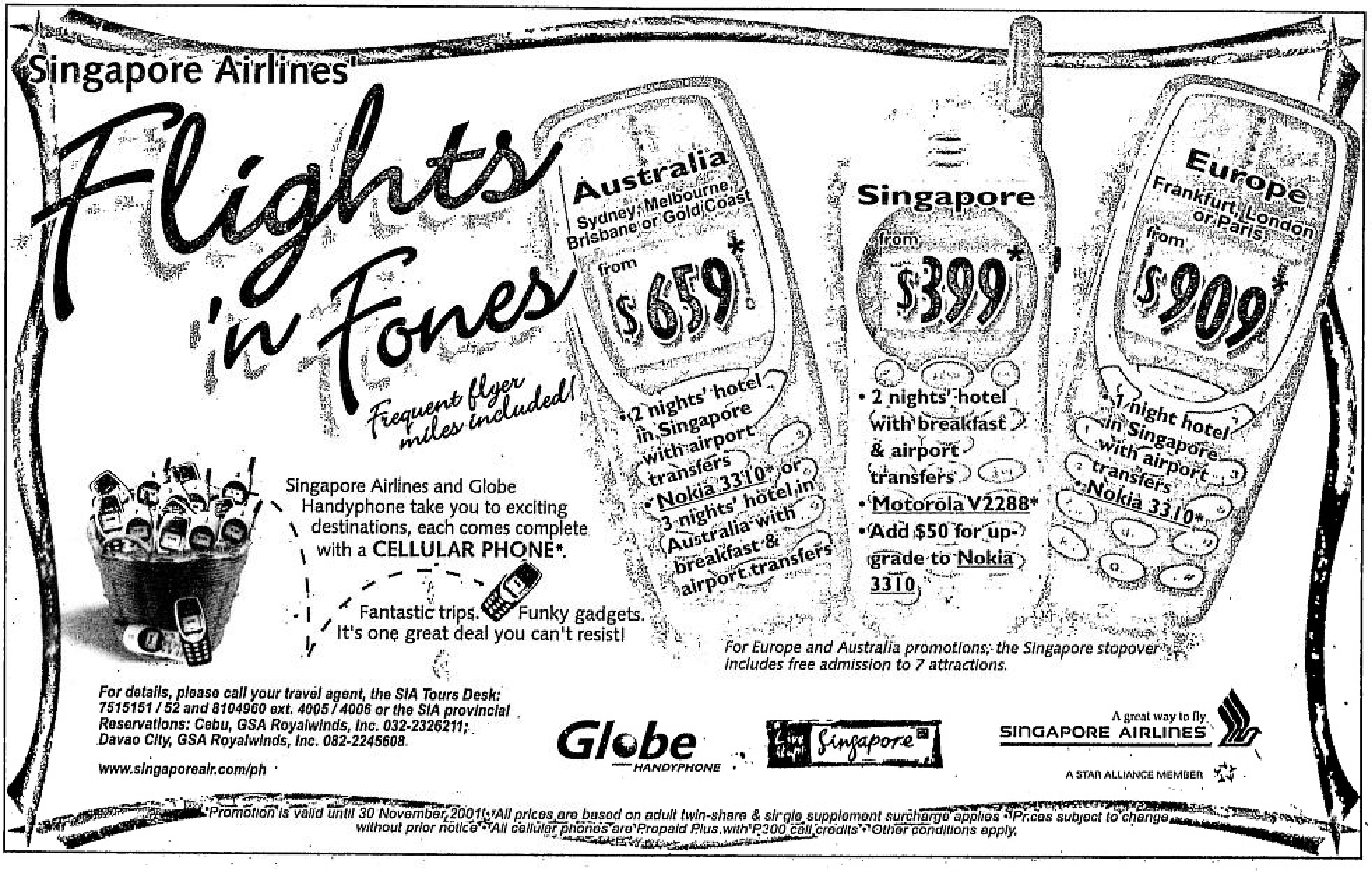
(From page C5)

and ticking; and it is frequently this "thinking out of the box," as modern business jargon would have it (I myself must sadly confess that I climb into a cardboard box and do my thinking there; how admirable it must be to be able to think out in the open!) that drives and changes (Hegel: advances) the world. But when do zany and eccentric and ingenious become madness and insanity?

Well, one good indicator is that if you're not eating people, so far so good. But it's a thin line, and some societies are more tolerant than others. Yet in the end, do we not all of us, by our choice of career and friends and the home we build, create our own worlds in which to live? Hamlet's question, "to be or not to be," was fundamentally a question of the world as it was presented to him.

I myself find that one of the quickest ways of understanding a person is to see the space he inhabits: what books line his shelves, what music he listens to, whether the place is neat or filthy, the furniture gimcrack or stout. Revisiting those spaces, which seem so tiny now in the darkness and dust, filled with relics of my past lives, was poignant, though not in any melancholy or sentimental way. It simply reminded me of the evolution I had gone through over the years (and note that in the animal kingdom, evolution is not necessarily for the better), and brought home, in all senses of the word, the few constant obsessions, fears, desires, that have haunted me through the years. Madness, fear of madness; the restlessness and need for cliff-edges and windmills; and, finally, above all, bells.

E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila.com.ph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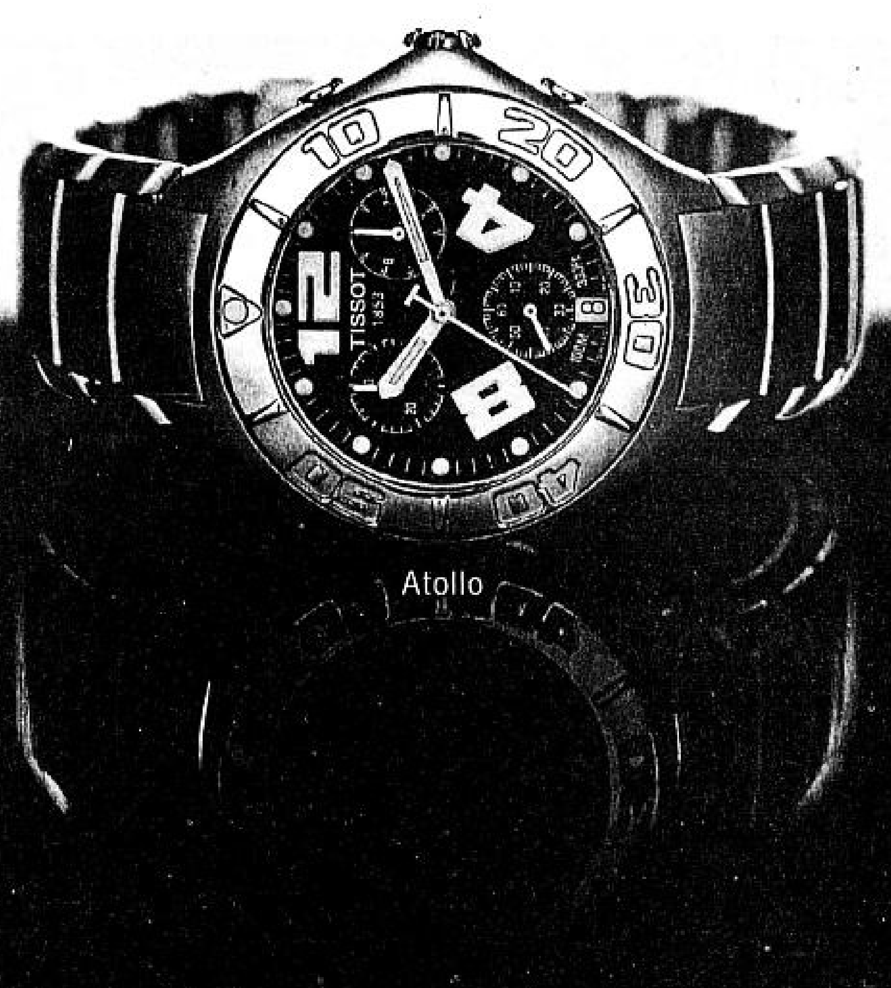

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Heny Sison

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

November 3 (Saturday) 9:00-1:30 p.m. P1,200 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing and Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

November 5 (Monday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 TART WORKSHOP by Heny Sison *Complete your basket of goodies with assorted tarts. An ideal gift for Christmas! Recipes: Macapuno Tart, Cashew Tart, Mango Tart, Pili Tart & Egg Tart

November 6 (Tuesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P1,200 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar

November 6 (Tuesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison *Chocolate Chips, Jam Thumbprints, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal & Chocolate Crinkles

November 7 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:00 noon P1,200 THE COOKIE PLATTER by: Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Fod Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Apple Bars, Caramel Pecan Diamonds, Raspberry Nut Fingers, Pebble Bars, Double Chocolate Brownies & Breakfast Cookies

November 7 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Aileen Anastacio, owner of Ces't Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweets, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy *If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso, Macchiato and Espresso con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the arts of coffee making.

November 8 (Thursday) 8:30-12:30 p.m. P1,200 SIMPLE PLEASURES by: Jill Sandique *Créme Brulee, Mexican White Flan, Strawberry Tunnel Cake, Blueberry Peach Torte, Pineapple Crumb Cake & Gabeau Sans Rival

November 8 (Thuraday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 DESSERT COFFEES by: Aileen Anastacio *Learn how to make a variety of iced coffee drinks; a whole new category of ways to enjoy espresso: Recipes: Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road, Mocha Malt and more!

November 9 (Friday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P1,200 FRENCH BISTRO DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique *Créme Caramel, Tarte Tatin, Tarte aux Pommes, Clafoutis, Galeau au Chocolat and Tarte au Citron Cecile

November 10 (Saturday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer *Learn the theories, style, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for wedding. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production, Bring a pair of scissors.

November 12 (Monday) 9:00-12:00 noon P1,200 THE COOKIE JAR by: Jill Sandique *Angel's Sigh, Walnut Balls, Almond Crescents, Traditional Peanut Butter Cookies, Turtle Bites and Cheddar Cheese Crackers

November 12 (Monday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 QUICK & EASY ITALIAN DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique *Fragole all' Aceto Balsamico, Chocolate Semifreddo, Zabaglione Classico, Baci Alle Gragole, Cassata Casalinga, Torta Caprese plus bonus recipes.

November 13 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY PASTRIES II by: Jill Sandique *Gateau Saint Honore, Croquembouche, Savarin, Babas au Rhum, Sable and Dobos Torte

November 14 (Wednesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CAKES WITH DISTINCTION by: Heny Sison *Sinful Chocolate Cake, Caramel Cake, Custard Cake, Canonigo with Créme Anglaise & Mango Coulis and Layered Brazo de Mercedes

November 15 (Thursday) 10:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 DIMSUM II by: Katherine C. Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine *Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Dessert

November 16 (Friday) 10:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 LAURIAT SAMPLER II by: Katherine C. Sion *Quail Eggs with Chopped Meat Soup, Spiced Chicken with Soy Sauce, Barbecue Pork Spareribs, Fried Shrimps with Sweet & Spicy Sauce, Chinese Mushroom with Vegetable in Oyster Sauce and Candied Fried Bananas

November 17 (Saturday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 SPECIALIZED FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca *Learn different styles of table arrangement and home decors. Demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

November 19 (Monday) 9:00-12:00 noon P1,200 BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison *Chewy Moist Bronies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel & Butterscotch Bars

November 19 (Monday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 COOKIES FOR GIVING by: Heny Sison *Springerie, Rugelach, Melting Moments, Macadamia Blondies with Caramel Glaze, Christmas Cantuccini & Snickerdoodles

November 20 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CHOCOLATE ARTISTRY by: Heny Sison *Professional technique for creating fabulous candies from molded treats to truffle. Learn how to temper, flavor and color chocolates. Learn how to make chocolate lollipops, 3-D hollow molded chocolates, chocolate house & hand molded rose made out of chocolate plastic icing. Packaging ideas will be shown in the class. You'll surprise your family by bringing home chocolate made in the class.

November 21 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 QUICK BREADS by: Heny Sison *Apple Walnut Cake, Banana Nut Bread, Zucchini Bread, Apple-Cinnamon Muffins, Dark Moist Bran Muffins and Carrot Muffins

November 22 (Thursday) 9:30-4:30 p.m. P1,200 EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS by: Jill Sandique *Chocolate Pecan Coffee Cake, Orange-Glazed Bundt Cake, Lattice Topped Apple Pie with Cider Sauce, Chocolate Caramel Tart, Christmas Cookies and Chocolate Chip Banana Loaf

November 23 (Friday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 COCKTAIL PARTY by: Jill Sandique *Spanakopita, Gougere, Kialbasa Turnovers, Cheeserounds, Walnut Ball, Choco-dipped, Strawberries, Chocolate Cognac Truffles and Mocha Streusel Bars

November 24 (Saturday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,200 HOLIDAY EDIBLE GIFTS by: Heny Sison *Christmas Bread, Lengua de Gato, Pinipig Polvoron, Florentines, Pine Nut Cookies & Empanaditas

November 26-30 (Monday-Friday) 9:00-12:00 noon P3,500 GUM PASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison *A unique method of making gum paste flowers using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. The course covers: the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holly, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and Quick Leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. **Full participation.**

November 26-30 (Monday-Friday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P6,500 LAMBETH CONTINENTAL COURSE (The Ultimate in Cake Decorating) by: Heny Sison *The course covers: the intricate overpiping borders on royal icing and fondant covered cakes. Students decorate cake using combination of overpiped borders and tiny flowers. Master Course and Advanced Cake Decoration Course are prerequisite to this course. *Maximum of only 5 students will be accepted for this special class. **Full participation.**

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN Nestle Center #31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati

November 10 (Saturday) 9:30-1:30 p.m. P1,500 SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP *Learn how to make hand rolled soft pretzels with a variety of toppings & dippings: Cinnamon Sugar, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt and Sesame Seeds and more! Match them with cream cheese, caramel & soft cheese dippings

November 12 (Monday) 1:00-6:00 p.m. P1,200 HOLIDAY DESSERTS *Fudgy Nut Cookies, Cashew Tart, Lemon Torte, Cookies and Cream Cake, Devil's Food Bar with Caramel Topping and Rum Cake

November 13 (Tuesday) 1:00-6:00 p.m. P1,500 OLD-FASHIONED DESSERTS *Honey Crunch Cake, Strawberry Shortcake, Mango Cake, Sanzrival, Melt in the Mount Mamon and Jelly Rolls

November 23 (Friday) 1:00-6:00 p.m. P1,200 LIQUEUR CAKES *Meyer Lemon Pound Cake, Whiskey Cake, Espresso Cake with Hot Kahlua Syrup, Amaretto Cake, Grand Marnier Cake and Cointreau Cake, Bonus recipe: Rum Cake

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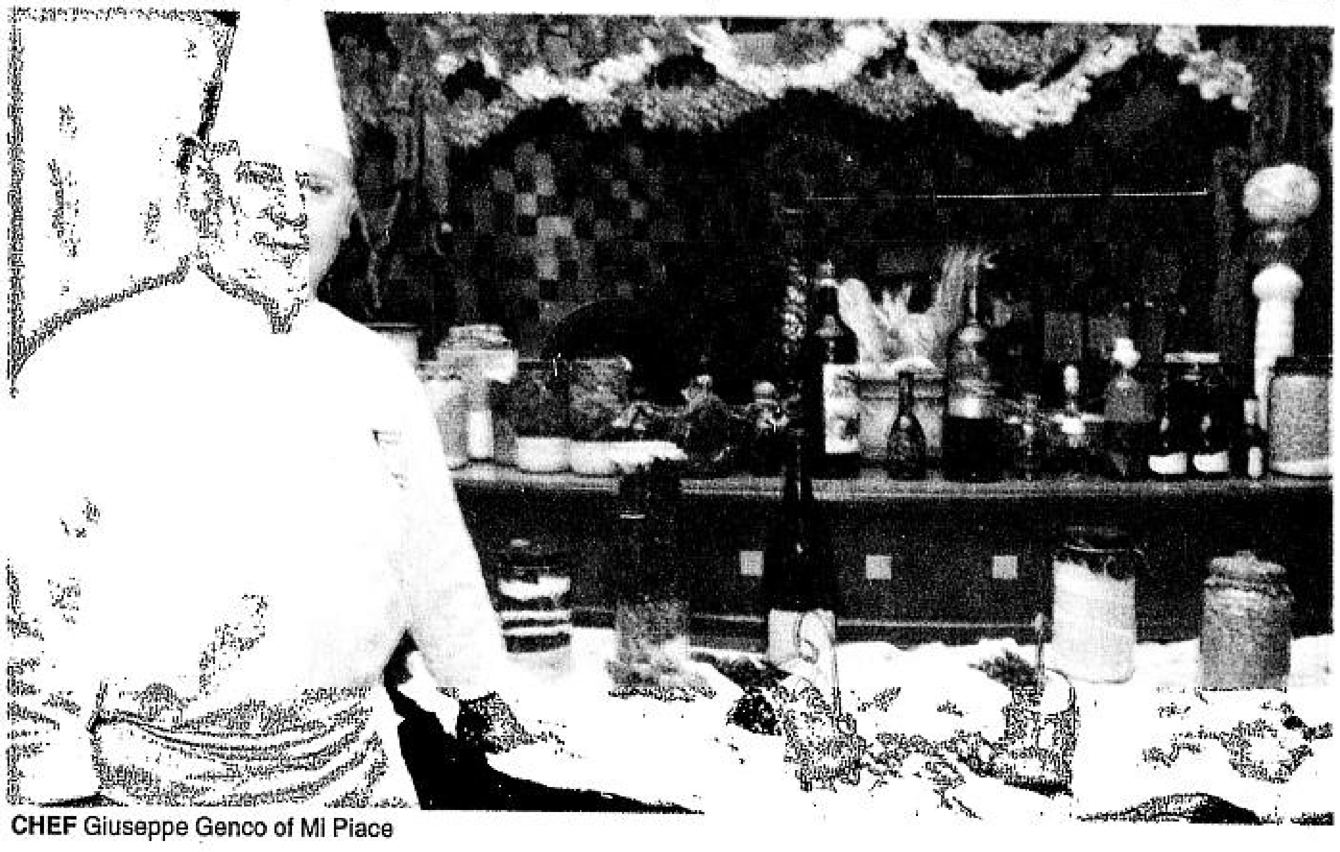


CHEF Giuseppe Genco of Mi Piace

Chef Giuseppe Genco creates stunning versions of Italian recipes at the Pen

ANTIPASTO Alla Giuseppe

Your piace or Mi Piace?

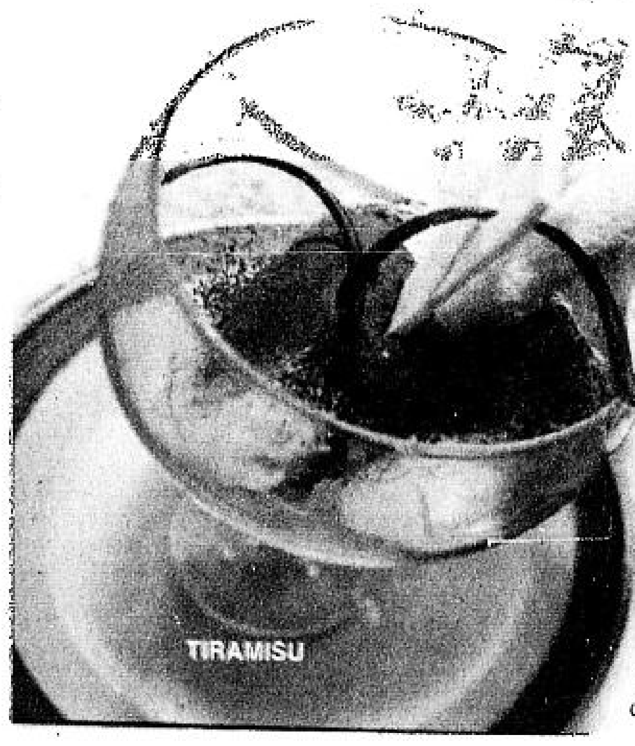
BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

CLARITY and focus are so rare in Metro Manila's Italian spots that Mi Piace of The Manila Peninsula feels like a fresh, invigorating breeze.

In this welcoming restaurant, chef Giuseppe Genco concocts simple comforts (Mixed Italian Appetizers and Pizza of Tomatoes, Mozzarella, Mushrooms, Artichokes, Olives and Smoked Ham), delicate pastas (Lobster Ravioli served with tomato-anise sauce, Tortellini with tomato, mascarpone cheese, mushrooms and eggplant sauce and Linguini pasta with basil-pesto sauce) and fabulous desserts (Sicilian-style cannoli shell filled with ricotta cheese, Classic Mascarpone Cheesecake and Friandise).

For 20 years now, Chef Genco, 42, has been a Boticelli in the kitchen. He believes that the pleasure of cooking is enhanced by preserving the characteristic tastes of separate ingredients, more than by blending them artistically.

"A chef is like an artist. The success of each dish he creates depends on the freshness of ingredients, knowledge of how you put things together and its presentation. Most important is the team work," says Genco, who's married to a Filipina and has three children.



Inspired by his uncle, who owned two restaurants in Italy and London, Genco attended culinary school at the age of 16. At 19, he became his uncle's apprentice and after two years moved on to Hilton and Sheraton in London, the Princess Cruise Line and Shangri-La in Mactan and Beijing. For eight months now, he has been delivering a stunning version of an Italian meal at Mi Piace.

A native of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean known for its insular conservatism and ancient culinary tradition, Genco has clearly given serious thought to what food should be—pared down and clean with pure bursts of flavor.

Glories of Italy

Chef Genco, who will hold a three-hour course on Italian cooking on Oct. 27—from 9 a.m. to noon—at The Manila Peninsula, emphasizes that the excellence of dishes depends on the excellence of things that go into them.

Italian food is brightly colored. The spinach is gaily green, the pasta delicately shell pink, the peppers shiningly yellow, green or red like polished marble, the roast meat dark red and so forth. The distinct hues correspond to distinct

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